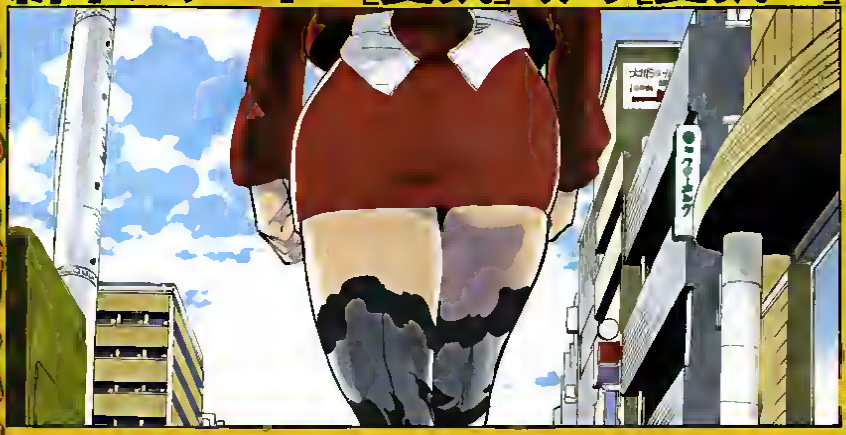
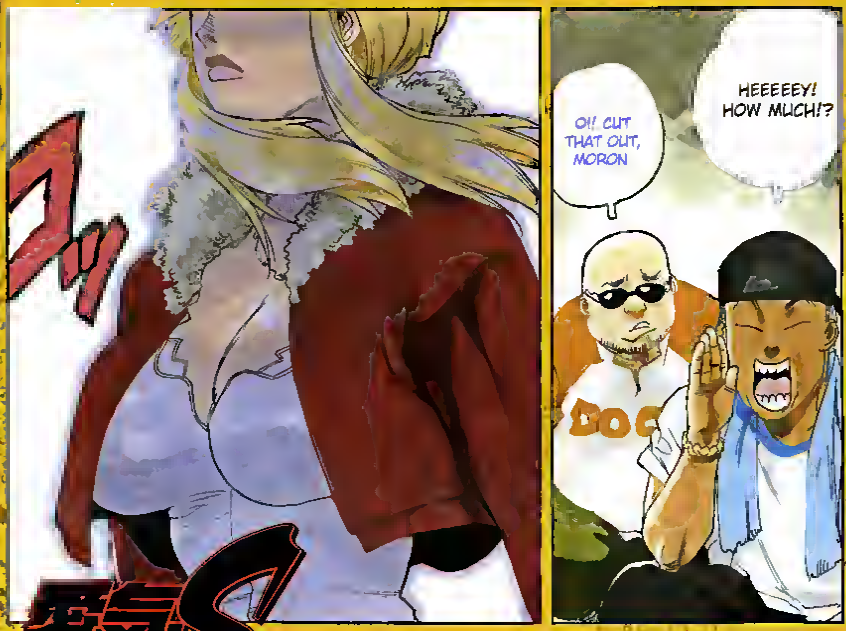
新章スタート!!［愛気］改め［愛気-S］

ここから新しい物語が始まる!!





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愛気S

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IT'S FINE. I'M SURE SHE'S A PROSTITUTE
HEY, IDIOT, SHE HEARD YOU.

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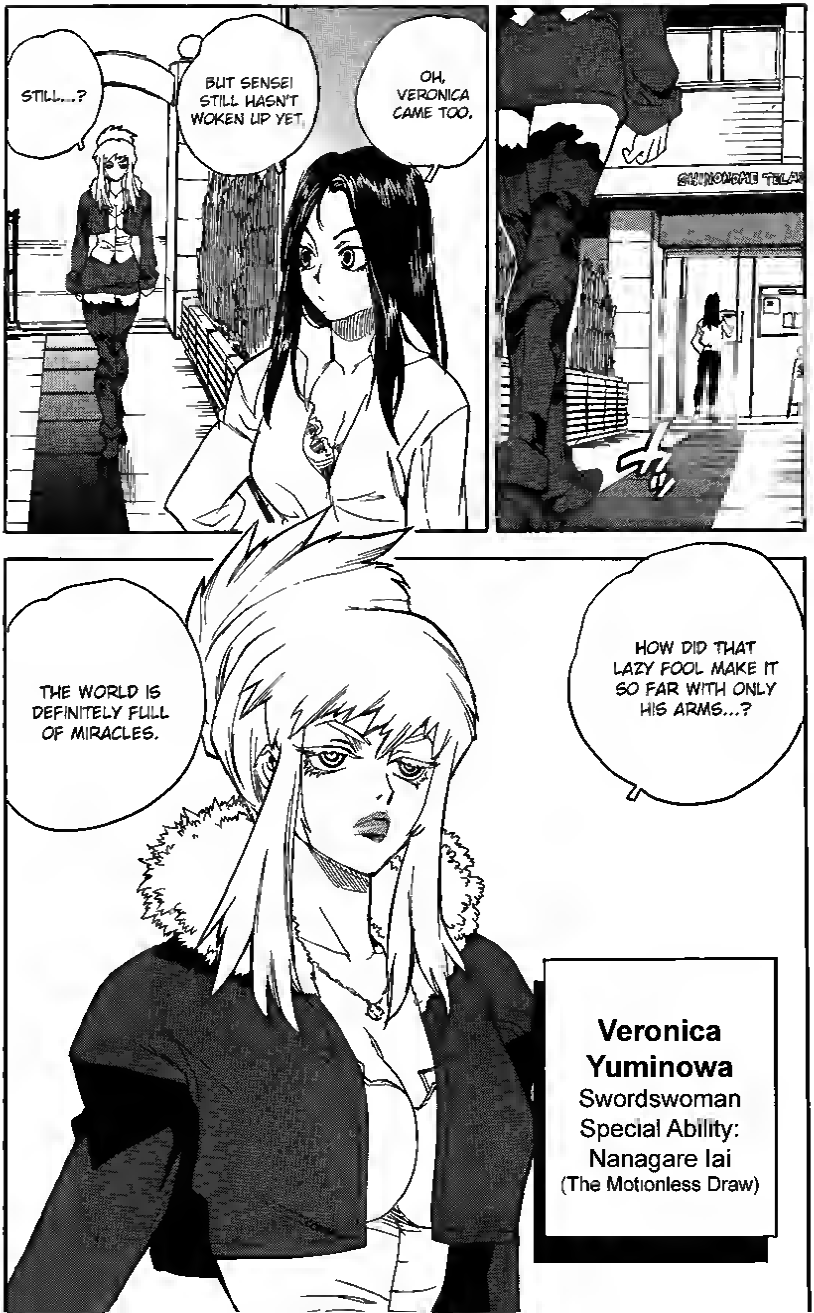
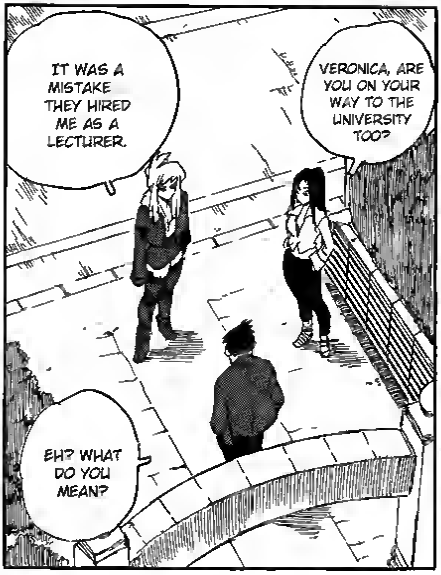
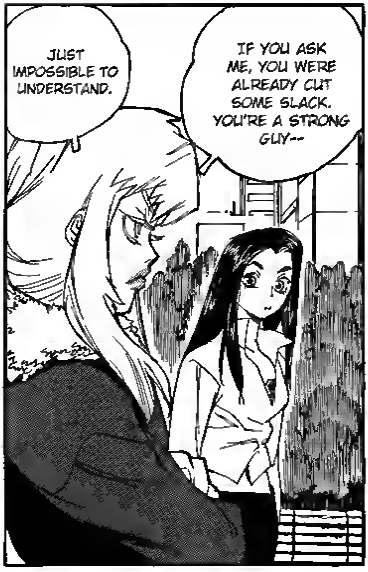
SENSEI IS PROBABLY HERE...
IT'S ALREADY NOON.
YOU'VE ALREADY CANCELED TOO MANY LECTURES AS THINGS STAND.
CUT THE CRAP OR YOU'LL GET FIRED.
Kageyasu Akemi
Martial Artist
Special Skill:
Aikido-Juute

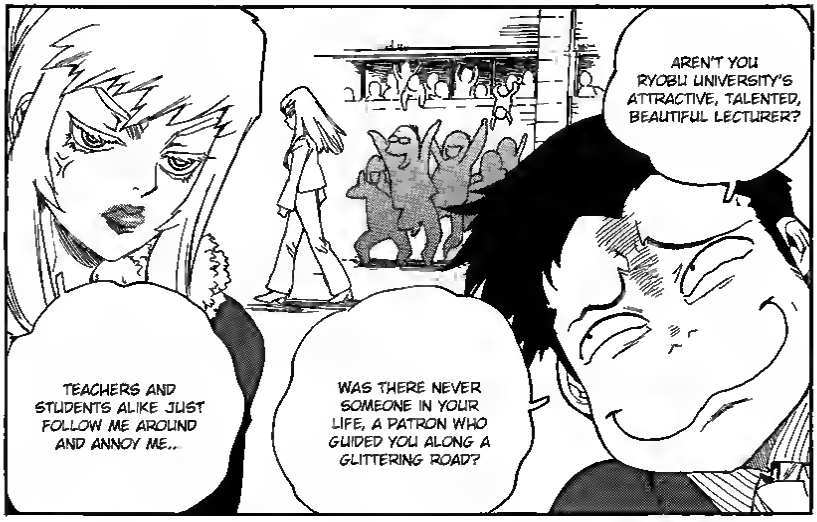

STILL...?
BUT SENSEI STILL HASN'T WOKEN UP YET.
OH, VERONICA CAME TOO.
THE WORLD IS DEFINITELY FULL OF MIRACLES.
HOW DID THAT LAZY FOOL MAKE IT SO FAR WITH ONLY HIS ARMS...?
Veronica Yuminowa
Swordswoman
Special Ability:
Nanagare Iai
(The Motionless Draw)

IT'S BECAUSE HE USUALLY SLEEPS UNTIL NOON.
AH, HE FINALLY WOKE UP.
I'M COMING! I'M COMING RIGHT NOW.
WHAT THE--!
VERONICA, GIVE ME A GOOD MORNING KISS.
I'LL BEAT YOU AND SLICE YOU INTO PIECES
GOOD MORNIN'.
GOOD MORNIN'.
GEEZ..
DIDN'T I REFER YOU FOR THAT UNIVERSITY IAI LECTURER POSITION?
NOBODY ASKED YOU TO.

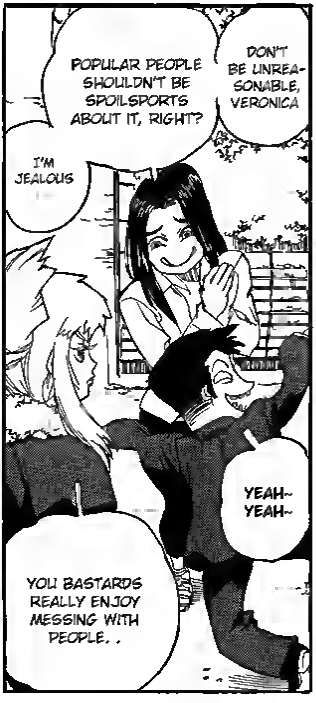
AS USUAL... NONE OF YOU GIVE ME ANY LEEWAY.
Joukyuu Kunitoshi
Japan's best martial artist. Outside of martial arts, however, he is the worst at everything.
Special Ability
Super-Aikido
Currently reinstated as an associate professor at Ryobu University, the very peak of Japan's martial arts world.

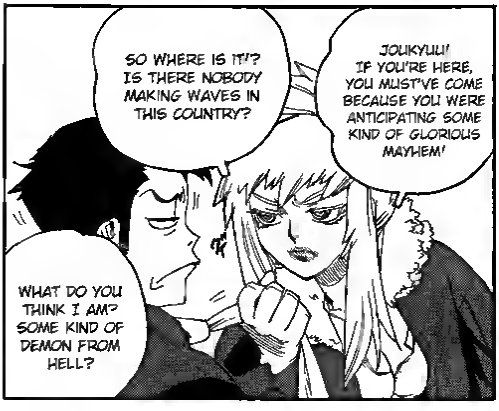

IT WAS A MISTAKE THEY HIRED ME AS A LECTURER.
VERONICA, ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO THE UNIVERSITY TOO?
EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


JUST IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND.
IF YOU ASK ME, YOU WERE ALREADY CUT SOME SLACK. YOU'RE A STRONG GUY--


AREN'T YOU RYOBU UNIVERSITY'S ATTRACTIVE, TALENTED, BEAUTIFUL LECTURER?
WAS THERE NEVER SOMEONE IN YOUR LIFE, A PATRON WHO GUIDED YOU ALONG A GLITTERING ROAD?
TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ALIKE JUST FOLLOW ME AROUND AND ANNOY ME..

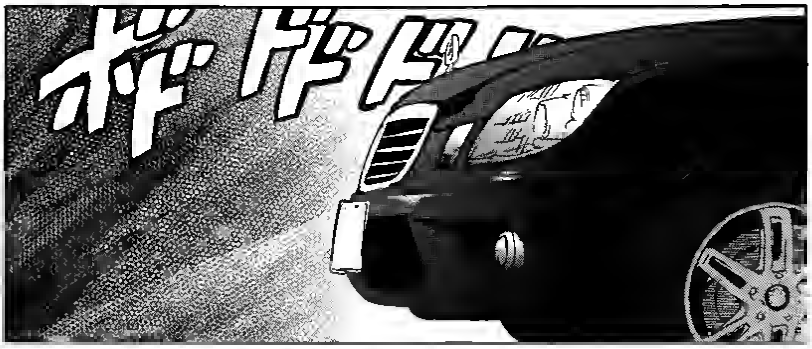
DOESN'T THIS COUNTRY HAVE A REBELLION OR A CIVIL WAR OR SOMETHING!?
THIS HAS BECOME QUITE TEDIOUS
THIS GIRL HAS SOME SCARY INTERESTS!


DON'T BE UNREASONABLE, VERONICA
POPULAR PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE SPOILSPORTS ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
I'M JEALOUS
YEAH~ YEAH~
YOU BASTARDS REALLY ENJOY MESSING WITH PEOPLE. .


SO WHERE IS IT!? IS THERE NOBODY MAKING WAVES IN THIS COUNTRY?
JOUKYUU! IF YOU'RE HERE, YOU MUST'VE COME BECAUSE YOU WERE ANTICIPATING SOME KIND OF GLORIOUS MAYHEM!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM? SOME KIND OF DEMON FROM HELL?

THIS HAS TO BE A JOKE!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN HEAVEN IS "SOMEWHERE" IN JAPAN!? AREN'T YOU CARRYING IT!?

SMOKERS IN A NON-SMOKING AREA..
I DO HAVE THIS CANE THOUGH
I'M NOT GOING TO CALM DOWN! HE DOESN'T HAVE THE SWORD!!
.. HEY, LET'S TALK THIS OUT CALMLY, VERONICA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WE'VE ARRIVED, BOSS.
OH!

QUIT SHOWING OFF, BULL!
GUH!?
SORRY..
WHO SAID YOU COULD TALK ANYWAY!?
He wears it like a Jersey...
SERIOUSLY.. IT'S YOUR FREE CHAUFFEUR'S SUIT. DON'T FUCK AROUND IN IT.
SHEESH. IF I EVER MAKE IT TO THE TOP, I'LL REMEMBER THAT.
I CAN'T TELL ANYONE IN JAPAN THAT I "ALMOST DIED ON A BATTLEFIELD".
I'D JUST END UP BEING CALLED A LIAR.
WHY THE HELL DID HE HAVE TO BRING ME ALONG TO THAT BATTLEFIELD?
HMM... JOUKYUU, THAT BASTARD...

Bull
Real name
Furokawa
One of those affected and abused by Joukyuu. Originally he was the head of some yankees. Now he's found a job with the yakuza as an errand boy.
THIS IS THE YAKUZA; THE PECKING ORDER SHOULD BE DECIDED BY OUR FISTS!
THIS IS A JOB FOR SOME AVERAGE JOE.
ME!? WHY AM I STARTING AS SOME NOVICE CHAUFFEUR!?
DAMN IT! WHY'D THIS HAPPEN TO ME!?
AH.. S-SORRY...
AND NO SMOKING!
HEY, HEY, THERE'S NO LITTERING ALLOWED IN THIS AREA.
AND NO PARKING EITHER.

THE BEAUTIFUL LADY'S IAI SHOW IS STARTING!
ALRIGHT, TIME FOR THE FIRST STRIKE!
I DIDN'T HIDE IT VERY WELL...
YOU BASTARD.. YOU ONLY CALLED ME IN TO BE A LECTURER SO YOU COULD PLAY WITH ME LIKE A TOY, HUH?
LOOK ME IN THE EYES AND SAY THAT.
WATCH IT!
DON'T TREAT THIS LIKE AN EXHIBITION!
HEY!

HOLD UP, VERO-SAN!
IS IT OKAY IF I KILL ALL OF THE STUDENTS?
SHOW US~~~
CAN PROFESSOR JOUKYUU DO IT...?
QUIT FLIRTING DURING THE LECTURE~
WATCH CAREFULLY, STUDENTS.
I DON'T PROVIDE STEP-BY-STEP EXPLANATIONS
THIS PLACE IS SUCH A JOKE...
THEN THINK, FEEL, AND UNDERSTAND IT ON YOUR OWN.
BURN THIS INTO YOUR MEMORY WITH YOUR OWN EYES,
カッ!!

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...HEY. SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, DID SHE...?
IDIOT. IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME WATCHING HER?
WATCH~~ THAT WAS GOOD~~
THAT WAS WELL DONE!
I'M NOT CLAPPING...
OKAY, A ROUND OF APPLAUSE~
THE REST WILL BE SELF-STUDY.

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WHAT!?
NOT YET.

YEAH, BUT... TO VIEW AND UNDERSTAND THAT...
THAT WAS WAY TOO FAST. I ALMOST DIDN'T SEE IT... AND YET...
THAT WAS AN AMAZING MOVE, WASN'T IT?
WHEN DID SHE DO THAT!?
EHHH? EVEN VERTI-CALLY!?
OF COURSE, MONSTERS HANG WITH MONSTERS.
PROFESSOR JOUKYUU IS A MONSTER TOO.

!!
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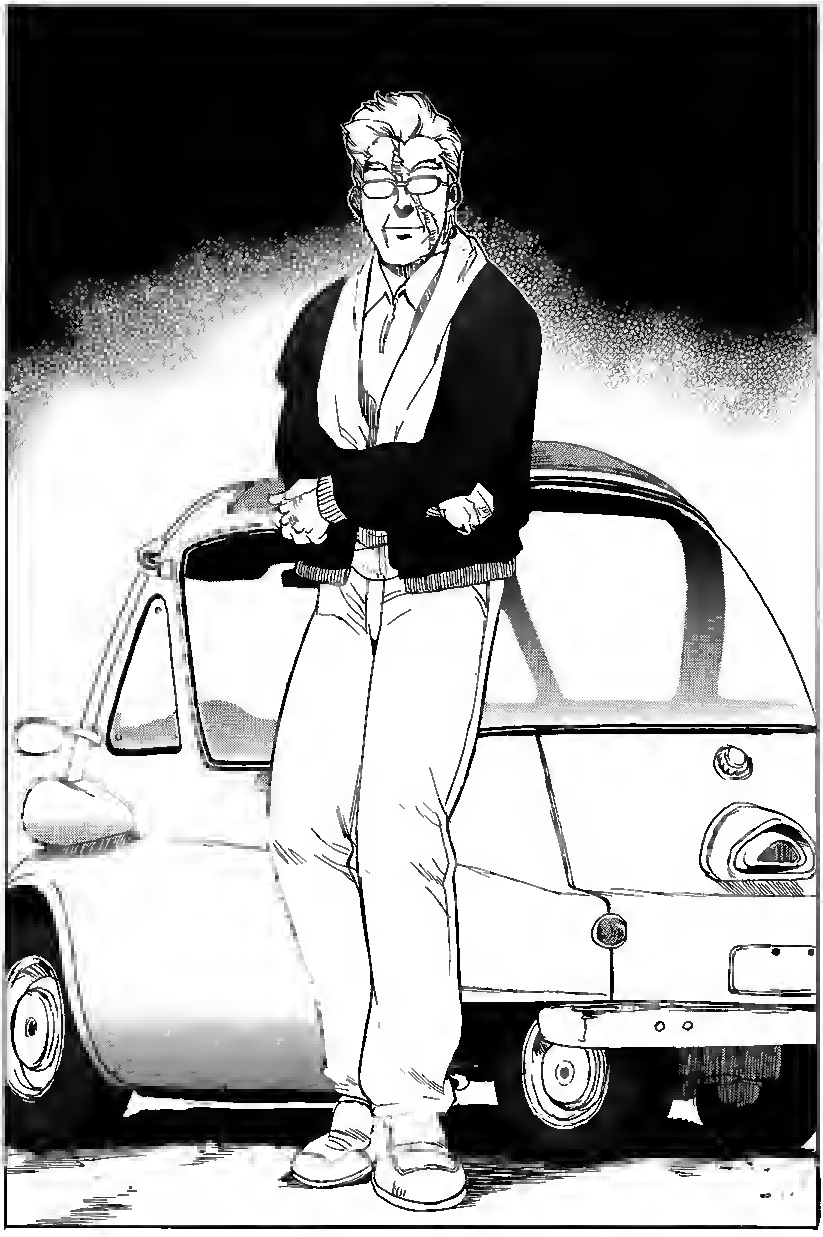
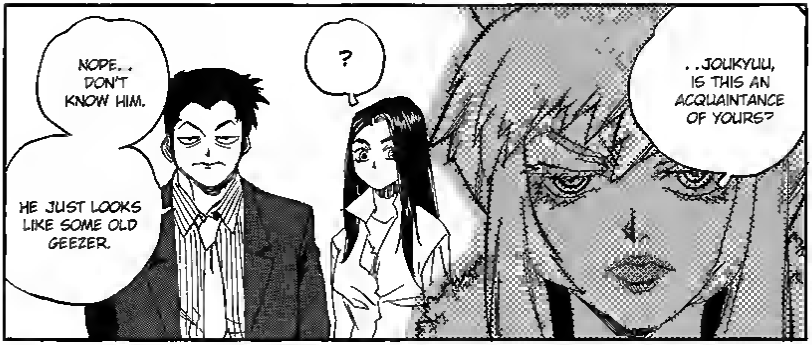
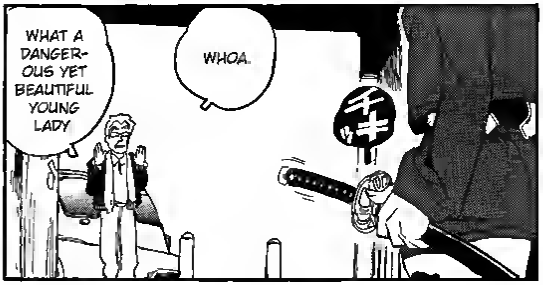
!




NOPE.. DON'T KNOW HIM.
?
..JOUKYUU, IS THIS AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS?
HE JUST LOOKS LIKE SOME OLD GEEZER.


WHAT A DANGER-OUS YET BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY
WHOA.
チキ

IT'S YOU, MISTER JOUKYUU
OH!

I WAS JUST COMING TO VISIT JOUKYUU, YET I RAN INTO SUCH A FAMOUS PERSON!
ARENT YOU THE MRS. VERONICA WHO MADE A NAME FOR HERSELF DURING THAT CIVIL WAR IN THAT EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY?
..WAIT, I KNOW YOU!

DON'T CRY.
SENSEI! SEND HIS ASS FLYING!
WHO ARE YOU?
NO, SORRY...
YOU REMEMBER ME TOO?
HEH
EVEN IF I WENT THERE, WHAT OF IT?
I'VE STILL GOT MORE TO SAY...
SO THEN... WHO ARE YOU, GRAMPS?
YOU MIGHT LOOK IT, BUT I KNOW YOU AREN'T JUST SOME AVERAGE DUDE.
I'M CALLED SOUTETSU.
YOU COULD CALL ME A HEADHUNTER OF SORTS.
OH, YES. SORRY.

WHO IS RAIDEN?
YOU REMEMBER, RIGHT? IT'S RAIDEN!
SOUTETSU...!?
ピク
KARATE...!?
HE'S A KARATE MASTER.
THERE IS QUITE A LOT TO THIS MAN. ALL I KNOW IS THAT
WAIT... IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO YOU SUDDENLY DROPPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH ELSE TO KNOW, BUT IF YOU WANT TO...
I FIGURED YOU'D KNOW OF ME

HE WAS SAID TO BE THE BEST IN KARATE AT THE TIME
THEY SPECULATED THAT HE WAS THE ONLY TRULY TALENTED PERSON AROUND BACK THEN
IF HE'S THE GUY FROM THE RUMORS, THEN HE'S GOTTEN AWFULLY WRINKLY SINCE THEN.
WHEN I WAS JUST A BRAT, I WANTED TO TRY FIGHTING AGAINST GRAMPS HERE.
SOMEONE WHO, DRIVEN BY THE NECESSARY CHALLENGES, BECAME A SYMBOL,
TO BECOME WORLD-RENOWNED, YOU WOULD USUALLY BE EITHER
OR AN ORDINARY BUM FAKING ACTUAL SKILL ONE OF THE TWO.
HE'S LIKE A TV CRITIC OR SOMETHING.
I WAS ONCE A YOUNG GENIUS LIKE JOUKYUU, BACK BEFORE SOMETHING ELSE CAUGHT MY INTEREST.
THIS IS AN HONOR.

ALL OF THAT ASIDE, I DIDN'T TAKE THE TRAIN HERE FOR A DUEL.
WOAH, WOAH! PLEASE CALM DOWN, YOU TWO.
BESIDES, I'M ALREADY PAST MY PRIME.
STILL, IT SEEMS LIKE THIS IS A PRIVILEGE FOR YOU, JOUKYUU.
HOH, NOW THIS IS INTERESTING.
THIS PERSON DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT!
IF HE WAS A LITTLE BIT YOUNGER, I'D HAVE INVITED HIM TOO.
THAT'D BE HOUJU, RIGHT?
I KNOW AN ACTIVE KENJUTSU USER WHO'S WAY PAST 80.
DON'T INSULT ME
SO, WHAT'D YOU COME TO INVITE US TO?
FIRST OFF, IF YOU WANT TO INVITE US, I'LL HAVE TO SHOW YOU WHAT THAT COSTS...

DON'T CALL ME SOMETHING SO DISGUSTING!
ANYWAY, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS HEAR HIM OUT, VERO-KUN.
HUH? HE JUST SAID HE WAS HEADHUNTING.
WE SHOULD TALK THINGS OUT PEACEFULLY.
UWAA-- SHE'S IN "BLOODTHIRSTY BEAST" MODE
EVEN YOU THINK THAT?
WILL YOU PLEASE COME TO AMERICA FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
JOUKYUU,
EVEN IF IT WOULD'VE BEEN BY SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME FROM MY BEHEADING.
PHEW, I'VE BEEN SAVED...

THOSE GUYS WHO LOVE GUNS AND GUNPOWDER MORE THAN ANYTHING?
BUT STILL, AMERICA?
THEY AREN'T THAT BAD.
HE DIDN'T SAY IT WOULD BE TO GO SIGHTSEEING.
WOAH! AMERICA!? I WANT TO GO!
AMERICA IS JUST A KINGDOM FILLED WITH PLATES PILED HIGH WITH MEAT AND BURGERS!!
AS FOR ME? NO WAY!!
HOT CAT
WHEN YOU STILL HAVEN'T HEARD THE REASON BEHIND THE TRIP!?
HEY NOW, WHY ARE YOU GUYS THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN LEISURE--

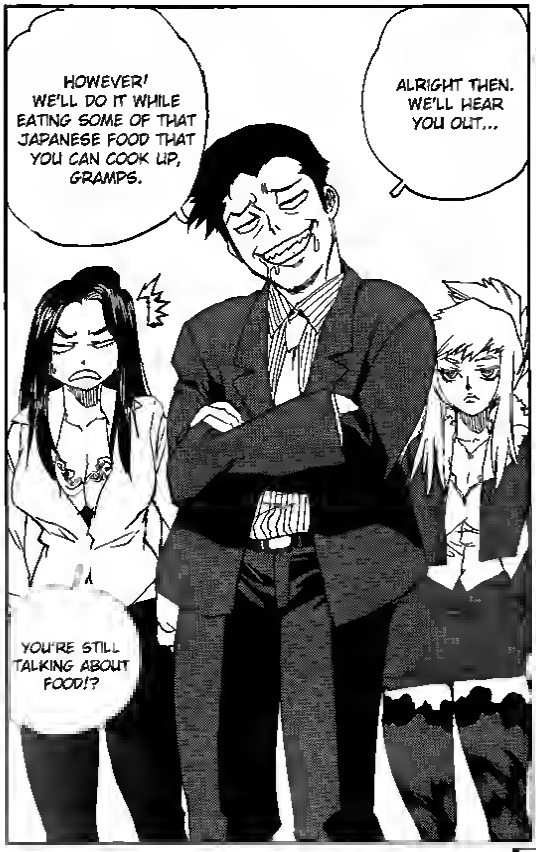
MY MAIN PROFESSION WAS AS A CHEF AT A HIGH-END TRADITIONAL JAPANESE RESTAURANT.
IF IT'S A JAPANESE DISH, THEN I CAN TYPICALLY MAKE IT.
WELL, ACTUALLY...
WHAT!?
AH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT STUFF.
HUH? WHY'S HE AGREEING SO QUICKLY?
YOU...! I'M GONNA HUG YOU!!
FILLED WITH MARTIAL ARTISTS FROM EVERY NATION...
ANYWAY, THERE'S THIS GROUP IN AMERICA

WHY ARE MARTIAL ARTISTS NEEDED IN A COUNTRY BOASTING THE LARGEST MILITARY OF ALL THE MAJOR POWERS?
MARTIAL ARTISTS ARE GATHERING IN A COUNTRY FULL OF PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO DIE BY BLACK GUNPOWDER?
IN AMERICA?
PERHAPS AS A TERRORISM COUNTER-MEASURE?
!
FOUND YOU, SOUTETSU
YOU... WHY HAVE YOU BEEN MOVING AROUND JAPAN?

LET'S GO BACK TOGETHER.
PLEASE, DON'T FORCE US TO HELP YOU.
OH DEAR.
EH? WHAT THE ..?
THIS IS INTERESTING. NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET A LOOK AT HIS SKILLS
HAAAH!

HAH!
MAN, THAT KARATE YELL IS ANN-OY-ING!
PFFT . IT WAS OKAY
WHA-- WHAT AMAZING DESTRUCTIVE POWER!!

HIS SPEED AND SKILL ARE NOTHING SPECIAL.
EVEN SO, THAT KIND OF EXPLOSIVE PENETRATING POWER IS GREAT FOR A KARATE MASTER.
IT APPEARS TO HAPPEN IN ONE INSTANTANEOUS SONIC BOOM.


ALRIGHT THEN. WE'LL HEAR YOU OUT...
HOWEVER! WE'LL DO IT WHILE EATING SOME OF THAT JAPANESE FOOD THAT YOU CAN COOK UP, GRAMPS.
YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT FOOD!?

WELL NOW, THAT WAS AN UNFORESEEN ANNOYANCE
SO, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR THE STORY IN MORE DETAIL?

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Editor: Weaper
QC/PR: Koro

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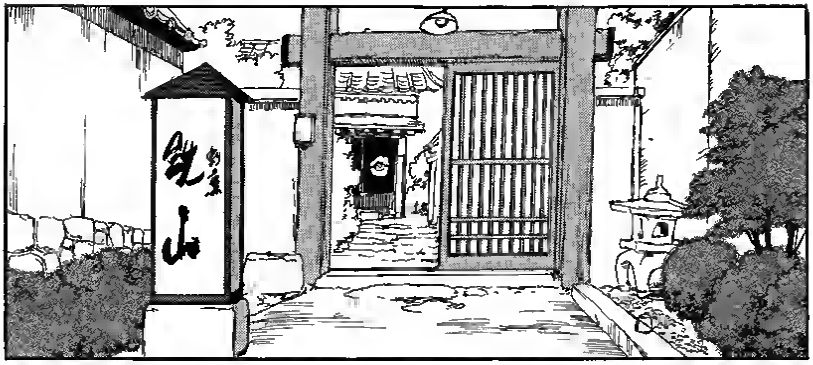
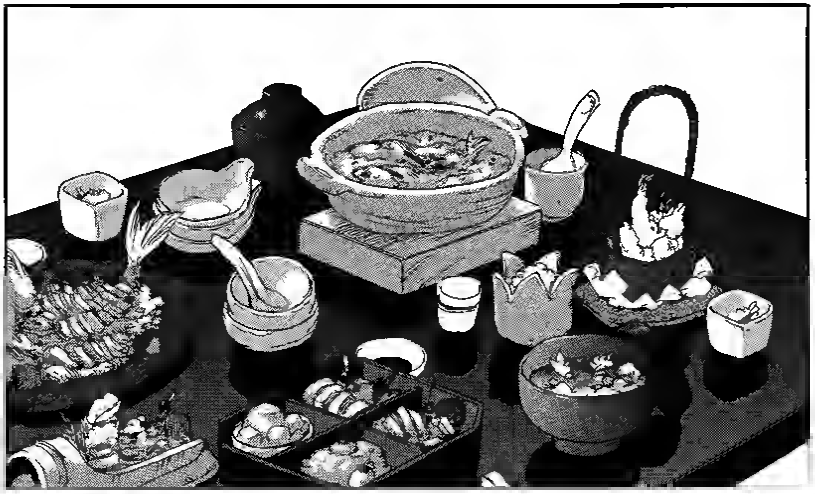
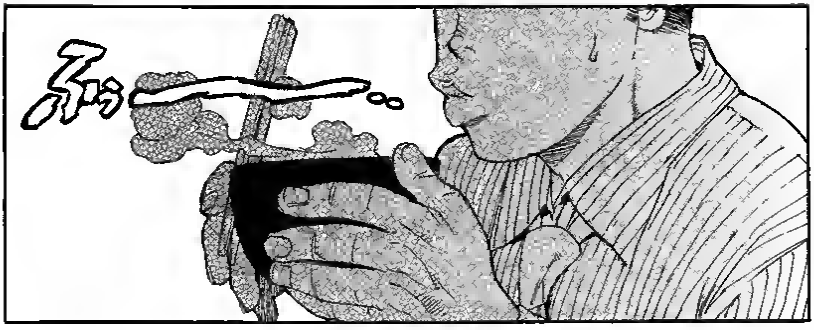
ISUTOSHI presents
イストシ
Not just a karate master,
but also a chef... where will
Soutetsu guide them!?



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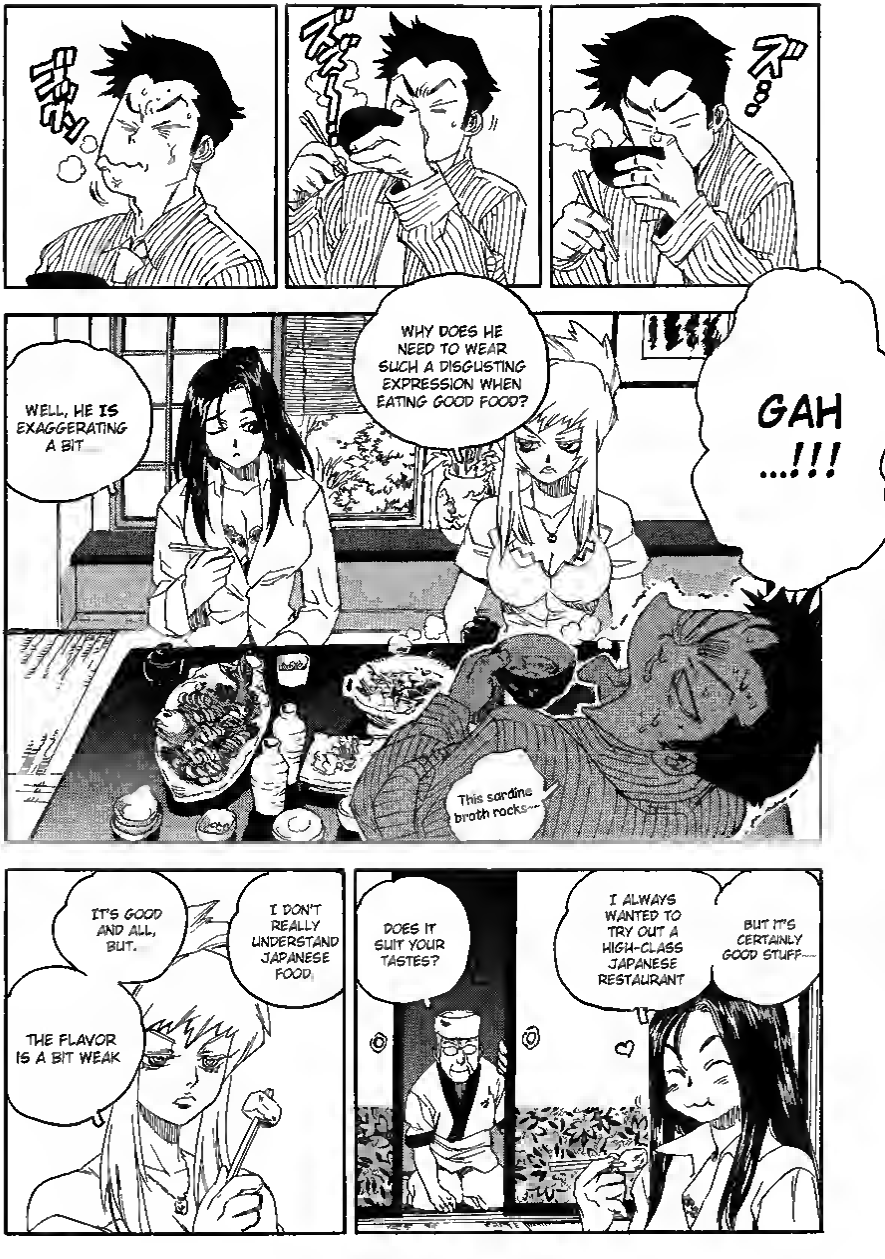
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WELL, HE IS EXAGGERATING A BIT
WHY DOES HE NEED TO WEAR SUCH A DISGUSTING EXPRESSION WHEN EATING GOOD FOOD?
GAH ...!!!
This sardine broth rocks~
IT'S GOOD AND ALL, BUT.
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND JAPANESE FOOD
THE FLAVOR IS A BIT WEAK
DOES IT SUIT YOUR TASTES?
I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY OUT A HIGH-CLASS JAPANESE RESTAURANT
BUT IT'S CERTAINLY GOOD STUFF~

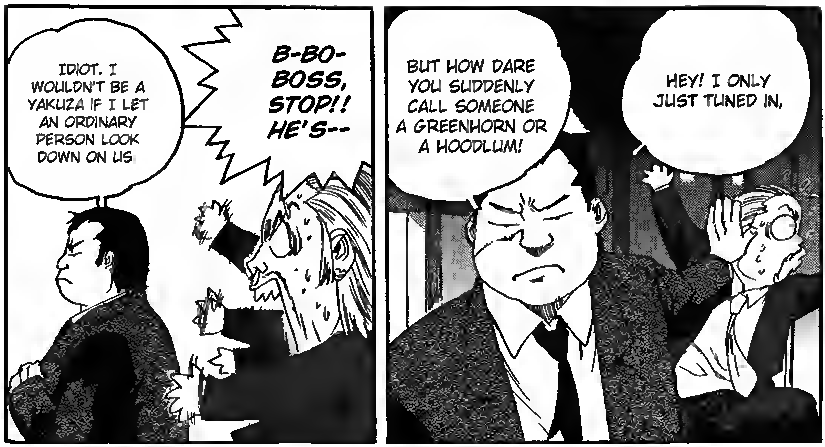
VERO-CHAN, I KNOW YOU LACK EXPERIENCE,
BUT THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT...
WHAT NOW?
FIRST, WHY ARE YOU SITTING CROSS-LEGGED!?
IT'S RUDE TO SIT LIKE THAT DURING A MEAL!!
NEXT, THE WAY YOU HOLD THE CHOPSTICKS!!
YOUR GRAMPS WOULD CRY!!
THOUGH I LOVE HOW I CAN SEE YOUR PANTIES.
YOU'RE SO NOISY. I CAN'T SIT FORMALLY.
YOU NEED MAYO FOR SEAFOOD.
HEY, SOUTETSU. GOT ANY MAYONNAISE?
WHAT!?
UGHHH!! MAYO, YOU SAY!?
EVEN IF GOD FOR-GIVES YOU, I WON'T!!
GIVE IT A REST ALREADY, SENSEI—
THIS ISN'T A GOURMET MANGA.

NOW THEN...
コト...
PLEASE HEAR ME OUT WHILE YOU EAT.
!!
UWAH... HEY, LOOK AT THOSE HANDS!
EH? YEAH, HAHA... SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THAT.
WELL, HE IS A KARATE MASTER.
HIS FISTS MUST HAVE GROWN HARD WHILE BEING USED AS BLUNT WEAPONS!
HANDS EVOLVE ACCORDING TO ONE'S "PROFESSION".
FIGHTING WITH A PRECISE INSTRUMENT MADE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL BONES IS AN UNBELIEVABLE REALITY TO ME.

MAKING ME THIRD-RATE AT THIS AGE.
DUE TO THAT, MY COOKING SKILLS ARE ALSO CLUMSY.
DON'T BE SO MODEST. JUST LIKE YOUR KARATE, YOUR COOKING IS FIRST-RATE.
TRUE, I CERTAINLY CAN'T MAKE A FULL "FIST".
THIS IS THE BEST I CAN MANAGE.
I WILL CONTINUE.
WELL THEN..
ANY-WAY, KEEP TALKING.
ALSO, WHERE'S MY MAYONNAISE?
YOU'RE STILL SAYING THAT, YOU CRAZY MAYO FREAK!?

GAH--- THAT WAS A FEAST---
I WANT TO HIRE HIM.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR THAT.
BOSS, WE'RE RUNNING SHORT ON TIME.
I KNOW. THE CONVERSATION DRAGGED ON.

W-WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE!?
RIGHT BACK AT YOU.
A HOODLUM ARROGANTLY EATING AT A HIGH-CLASS RESTAURANT?
HUH? YOU'RE SO NOISY, BULL.
UWAA-AAAH!?
WHY IS THE GREENHORN HERE?


IDIOT. I WOULDN'T BE A YAKUZA IF I LET AN ORDINARY PERSON LOOK DOWN ON US.
B-BO-BOSS, STOP!! HE'S--
BUT HOW DARE YOU SUDDENLY CALL SOMEONE A GREENHORN OR A HOODLUM!
HEY! I ONLY JUST TUNED IN,

KEEP GOING AND I'LL HAVE YOU PAY WITH YOUR BODIES!
HEY! ARE YOU GIRLS LOOKING DOWN ON ME AS WELL?
DON'T LAUGH! IT'S TOO SAD.
PFFT
WANT TO FEEL WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SCREW WITH A PRO?
HEY, MISTER I'LL FORGIVE YOU IF YOU GET ON YOUR KNEES AT ONCE
W-WE'RE DONE FOOOOR!
WASN'T SHE THE BOSS FROM THE LAST BATTLEFIELD!!?
UGH!?
THE WOMAN AT HIS SIDE IS...!

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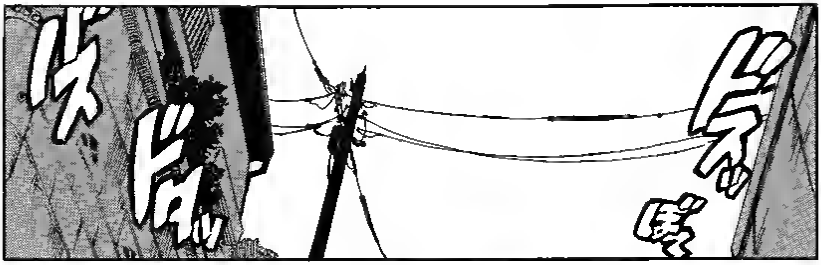
STOP DUBBING ME.
OH NO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTER TAKING US TO A BACK ALLEY?
IDIOT IF YOU'RE LOOKED DOWN UPON IN OUR BUSINESS, YOU'RE DONE FOR
ANYONE BUT THEM~~
S-ST-STOP IT, BOSS~

YOU CHOSE THE WRONG OPPONENT. I'M A THIRD DAN IN JUDO.
I EVEN WON A PREFECTURE TOURNAMENT.
IT'S TOO LATE TO CRY FOR FORGIVENESS NOW, YOUNGSTERS.
THIS IS HOW A PRO HANDLES THINGS.
WATCH CLOSELY, BULL.
NO, UHM...
STOP IT
SORRY.
NO, JUST...
WHY ARE YOU LAUGH-ING EVEN HARDER!?

SHOVING THINGS ONTO ME AGAIN?
KAGEYASU, YOU TAKE HIM ON
SHOULD I GO?
SAY WHAT YOU WANT, BUT I'M JOUKYUU'S SUBORDINATE RIGHT NOW.
I MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I'M LOYAL
I'LL CLEAN UP THE TRASH
EH? YOU?
NO WAY HOW UNUSUAL.
YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR SWORD HERE RIGHT NOW
I ALREADY TOOK A BATH THIS MORNING.
I QUITE LIKE JAPANESE BATHS
WRAAAR!!!
BITCH! HOW DARE YOU CALL ME TRASH...
I'LL TEACH YOU SOME MANNERS AND HAVE YOU PAY WITH YOUR BODY IN THE BATH!!

!?
BUAH!!
WHAT A WEAK BLACK BELT.
THOUGH IT'S JUST A SIDE KICK COMPARED TO HER SWORDSMANSHIP.
HEE~~ HER AIKIDO ISN'T BAD EITHER!
SHE WOULD BECOME AN EVEN MORE FEARSOME MONSTER.
IF SHE WERE TO POLISH HER AIKIDO SOME MORE...

I THINK YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING SOMETHING HERE
THE WOMEN ARE HIS BODYGUARDS!
TCH... NO WONDER HE ACTED SO ARROGANT.
WH-WHAT'S WITH THIS WOMAN!?
I SEE... SO YOU'RE A MARTIAL ARTIST!? SO SKILLED...
AREN'T YOU GLAD SHE DOESN'T HAVE HER SWORD...?
SHE'S A SWORDS-WOMAN.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, WHEN IT COMES TO BARE-HANDED COMBAT, I'M THE WEAKEST OF US THREE
BUT I'M NOT A BODYGUARD
I'M CERTAINLY A MARTIAL ARTIST,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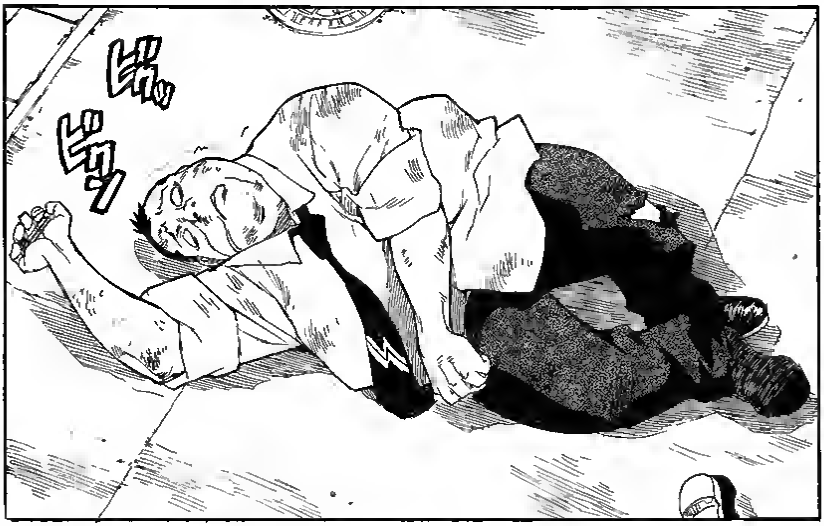
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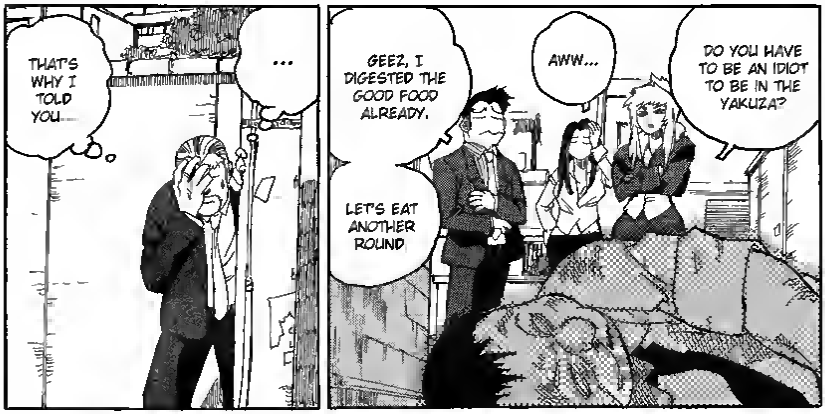
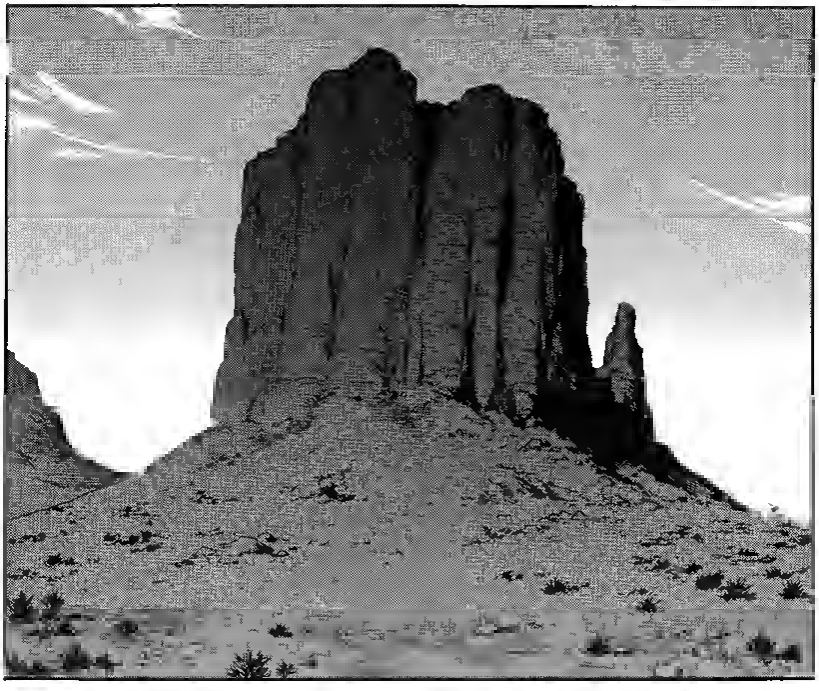
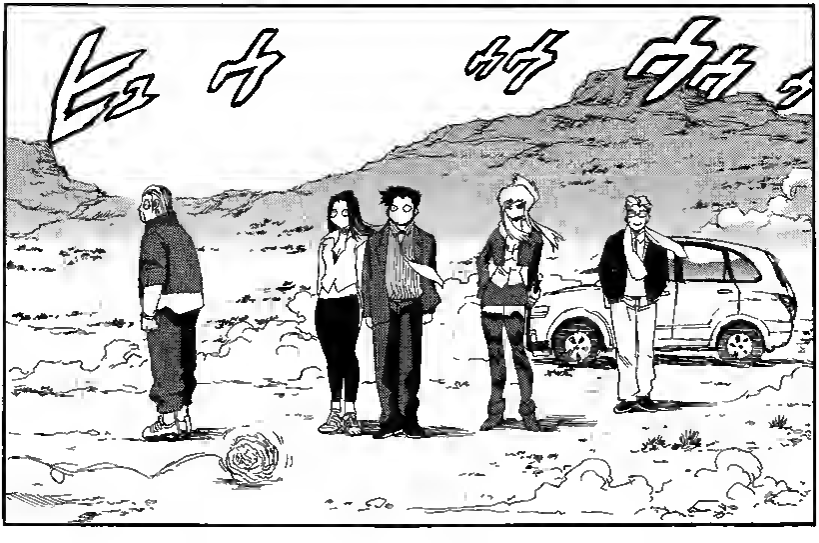
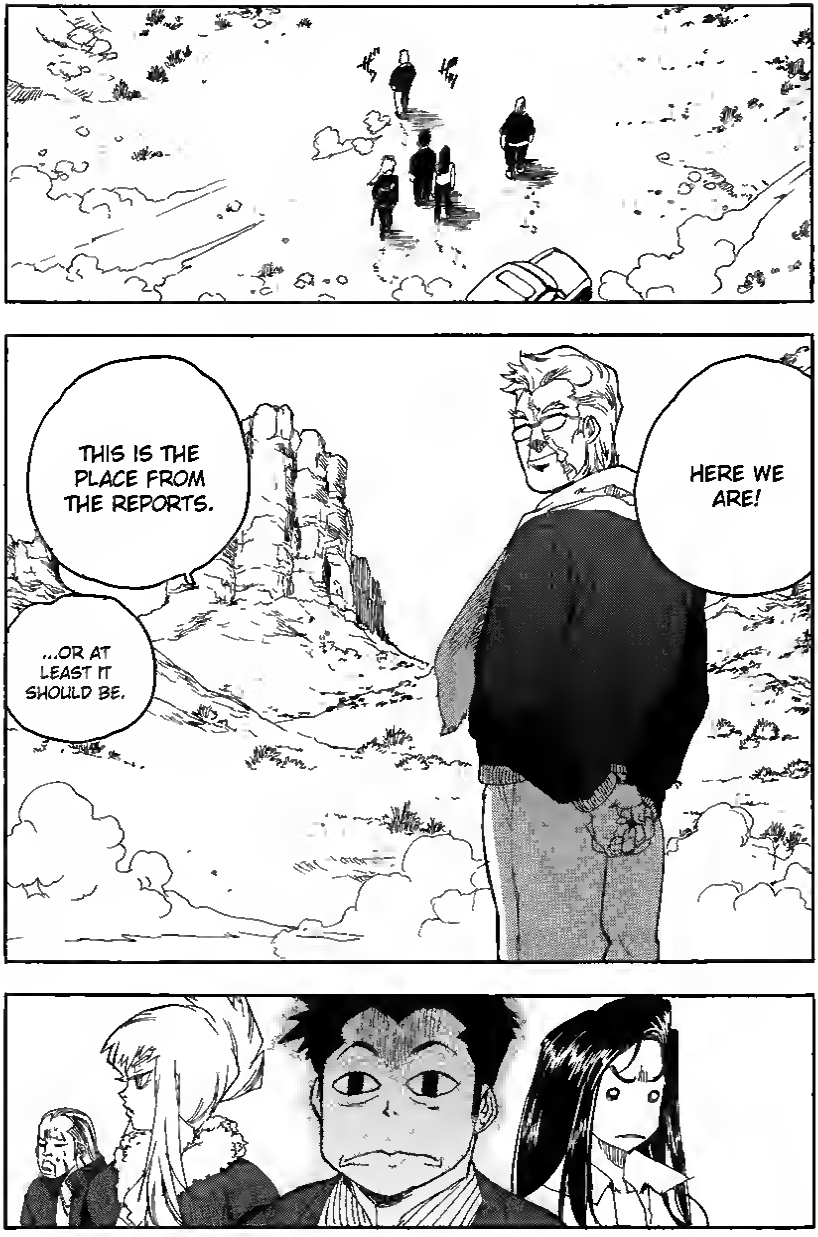

DO YOU HAVE TO BE AN IDIOT TO BE IN THE YAKUZA?
AWW...
GEEZ, I DIGESTED THE GOOD FOOD ALREADY.
LET'S EAT ANOTHER ROUND
...
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU...

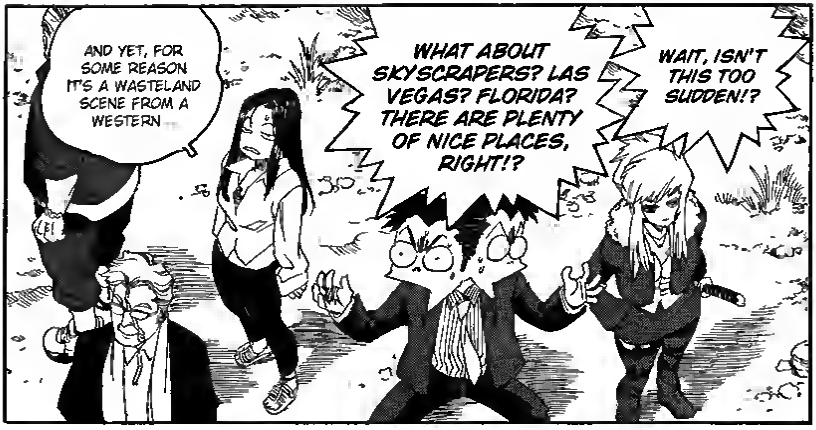
GOOD TIMING. COME ALONG, BULL.
OH, RIGHT...
HII!?
WHAT ABOUT THE YAKUZA PAWN OVER THERE?
...ARE YOU SERIOUS?
HUH?
AGAIN!?
YEAH!
...AS IF, IDIOT!!
So old-fashioned!!
DO YOU WANT TO GO TO AMERICA ---!?

HOW ABOUT THIS?
BECOME FAMOUS BY ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING GREAT IN AMERICA!!
I WON'T FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK TWICE!!
TH-THAT'S...
THEY'RE JUST USING YOU AS AN ERRAND-BOY ANYWAY, RIGHT?
I'M COMING.
YES.
GRAB
WHAT A TROUBLE-SOME GUY.
JUST COME WITH US OR I'LL CUT YOU.
WHAT!?
NOPE.
NICE, VERO-CHAN. YOU'RE SO HELPFUL
HOW ABOUT I DITCH KAGEYASU AND MAKE YOU MY FIRST DISCIPLE?

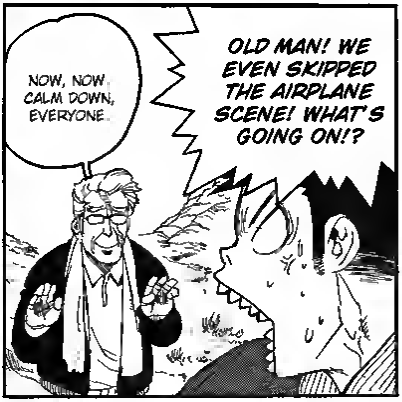


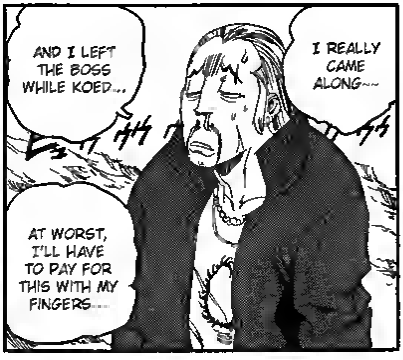



THIS IS THE PLACE FROM THE REPORTS.
HERE WE ARE!
...OR AT LEAST IT SHOULD BE.


AND YET, FOR SOME REASON IT'S A WASTELAND SCENE FROM A WESTERN...
WHAT ABOUT SKYSCRAPERS? LAS VEGAS? FLORIDA? THERE ARE PLENTY OF NICE PLACES, RIGHT!?
WAIT, ISN'T THIS TOO SUDDEN!?

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THIS WASTELAND HAS ANY GOOD FOOD~~
OR RATHER, THERE'S NO WAY IT'LL HAVE ANY...
BEFORE WORRYING ABOUT FOOD, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY WATER HERE EITHER

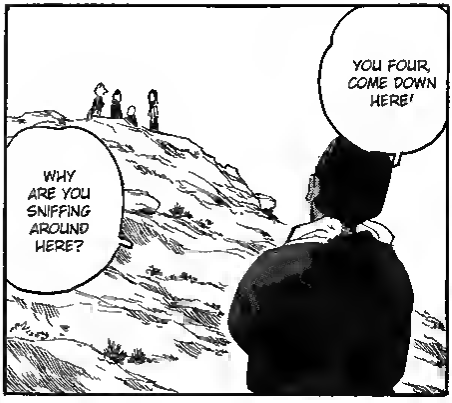

NOW, NOW, CALM DOWN, EVERYONE.
OLD MAN! WE EVEN SKIPPED THE AIRPLANE SCENE! WHAT'S GOING ON!?

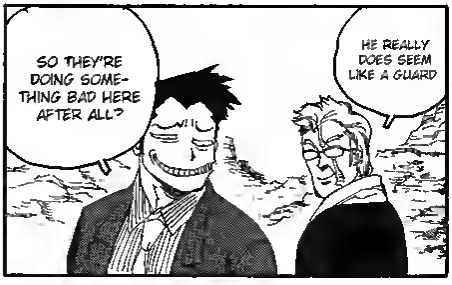

AND I LEFT THE BOSS WHILE KOED...
I REALLY CAME ALONG~~
AT WORST, I'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR THIS WITH MY FINGERS...

?
IT WAS HERE AFTER ALL.
OVER THERE
HEY, OLD MAN
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

A MILITARY FACILITY?
A BUILDING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
A TOTAL MISFIT IN THIS WASTELAND
I'M NOT SURE YET...
AT LEAST IT'S ONLY AMERICA AND NOT A BATTLEFIELD
AWW . I WAS DRAGGED INTO THINGS AGAIN
HAH...
CLATTER
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING ..?

IS THAT A WILD BOAR?
SO NOISY.
HIII-GIIII!!
AND INTENTION!
TELL ME YOUR NAME
D-DO-DON'T SHOO-OOT!!
FREEZE!





◆THIS TIME, SOUTETSU TAKES THEM TO AMERICA!! AND THE FACILITY IN THE WASTELAND BELONGS TO...!?

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Translator: PROzess
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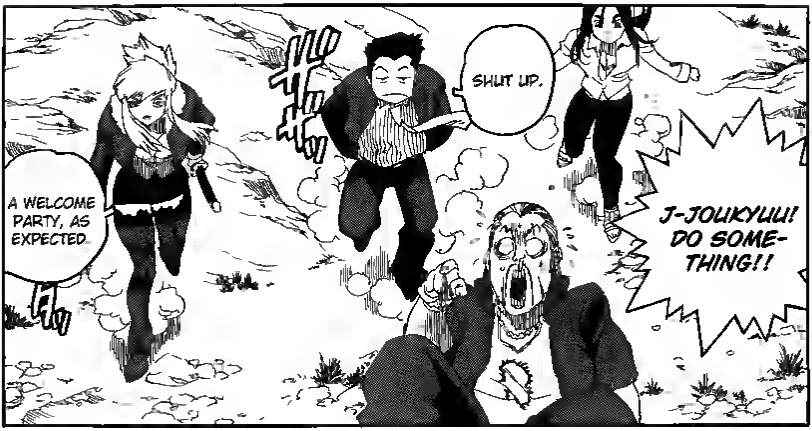
ISUTOSHI presents イストシ

蒼天のアルカ

◆THE JOUKYUU GROUP (+BULL) WERE BROUGHT TO AMERICA BY SOUTETSU! WHAT AWAITS THEM THERE IS...!?



MH!?
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... YOU'RE SOUTETSU, AREN'T YOU?
I HEARD YOU FLED TO JAPAN. HAVE YOU RETURNED FOR GOOD?
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE BACK.
I'LL HAVE YOU MEET THE COMMITTEE
EVEN IF IT'S YOU, YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST SO MANY GUNS
EH? YOU WERE IN AMERICA BEFORE?
YES. I WAS SUPERVISING A JAPANESE RESTAURANT IN L.A. FOR A WHILE

YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME?
ME?
WAIT! THAT WOMAN HAS A SWORD!
WHO ARE THE OTHER FOUR?
WOMAN! THROW THAT SWORD OVER HERE
NOW!
BE CAREFUL! SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S A MARTIAL ARTIST!

OLD MAN, CAN WE?
MM, LET'S SEE~
SENSEI, ARE WE GONNA GO?
PLEASE DON'T GO BEYOND WARMING UP.
ACT LIKE YOU ARE CAREFULLY BOILING WATER
WELL---
!?

ガシャ
HUH!?
AH...?
EH!?
ガ
ガ

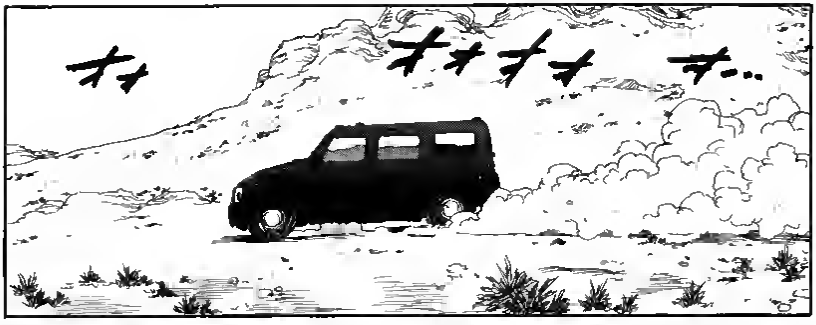
WAAA-
AAAAH
----!!?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT? NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT.
EHH!?
EH?
HEY, SENSEI! AGAIN WITH THAT...!

ARE ALL MARTIAL ARTISTS!?
Y-YOU GUYS
THOUGH YOU'RE DIFFERENT THAN THE YANKEE AND THE OLD MAN
I OVERDID IT ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT TEHE
AH, SORRY
BUT YOU ROASTED THEM IN ONE GO WITH A HIGH FLAME
AW--- I TOLD YOU TO BOIL THEM CAREFULLY..
PARTICI-PANTS?
EH?
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO EARLIER...!
DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE "PARTICIPANTS"!?

GEEZ... IF YOU HAD JUST SAID SO IN THE FIRST PLACE...
OKAY... I'LL CALL THE COMMITTEE...
WHAT?
TEAM?
I WENT TO JAPAN TO FORM A TEAM, THEN CAME BACK HERE.
YEAH. FOR THE RECORD,
KNOWN FOR ABUSING MARTIAL ARTS... HAS WON MY SON OVER TO THEIR SIDE.
ACTUALLY, A CERTAIN ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA
WHAT YOU SAID IN JAPAN WAS...
THIS SITUATION IS A BIT DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU PORTRAYED.
OLD MAN, I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT'S GOING ON

WHY WOULD WE NEED TO EAT JAPANESE FOOD IN AMERICA?
I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU AS A CHEF AND COOK YOU ALL THE JAPANESE FOOD YOU WANT.
IF YOU COOPERATE IN THE RESCUE OF MY SON,
NOT SUCH AN UNCOMMON OCCURRENCE.
YES.
YOUR SON PRACTISES KARATE TOO?
HEY.
I'M GOING.
LET ME GO.
NOWADAYS YOU CAN BUY ALL OF THE INGREDIENTS FOR JAPANESE FOOD, EVEN IN AMERICA
.....
I DON'T HAVE A SON,
THOUGH I CERTAINLY WANTED ONE.
AH, SORRY.

YOU'RE A SWINDLER, OLD MAN!!
AH, RIGHT..
I TOLD YOU, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE IN A WASTELAND LIKE THIS
YOU'RE ANGRY ABOUT THAT?
WELL, I DON'T MIND, AS LONG AS I CAN EAT JAPANESE FOOD
YOU DECEIVED US.
OH, COME NOW.. I DIDN'T LIE ABOUT THE FOOD.
ONCE WE GET THERE, I'M SURE I CAN GATHER INGREDIENTS
ブォォン
THE CARS ARE HERE. GET IN.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE. LET'S CHECK IT OUT.
..WHAT DO WE DO?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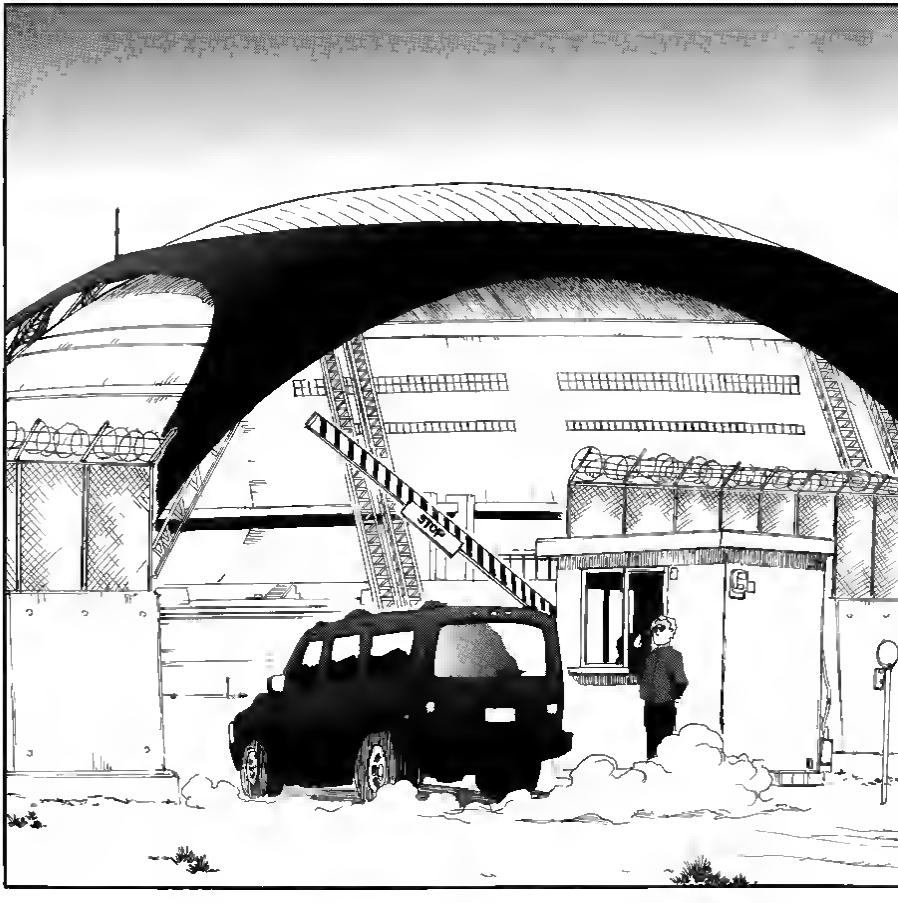
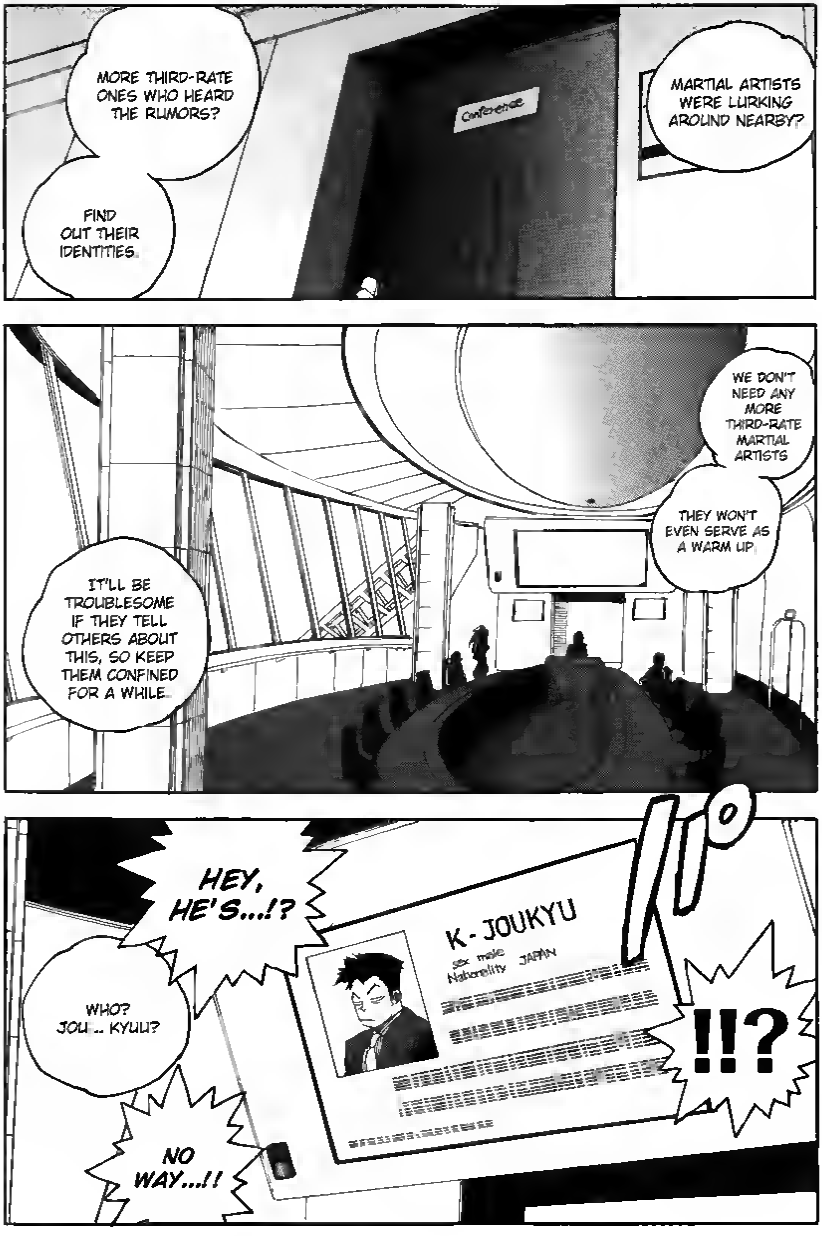
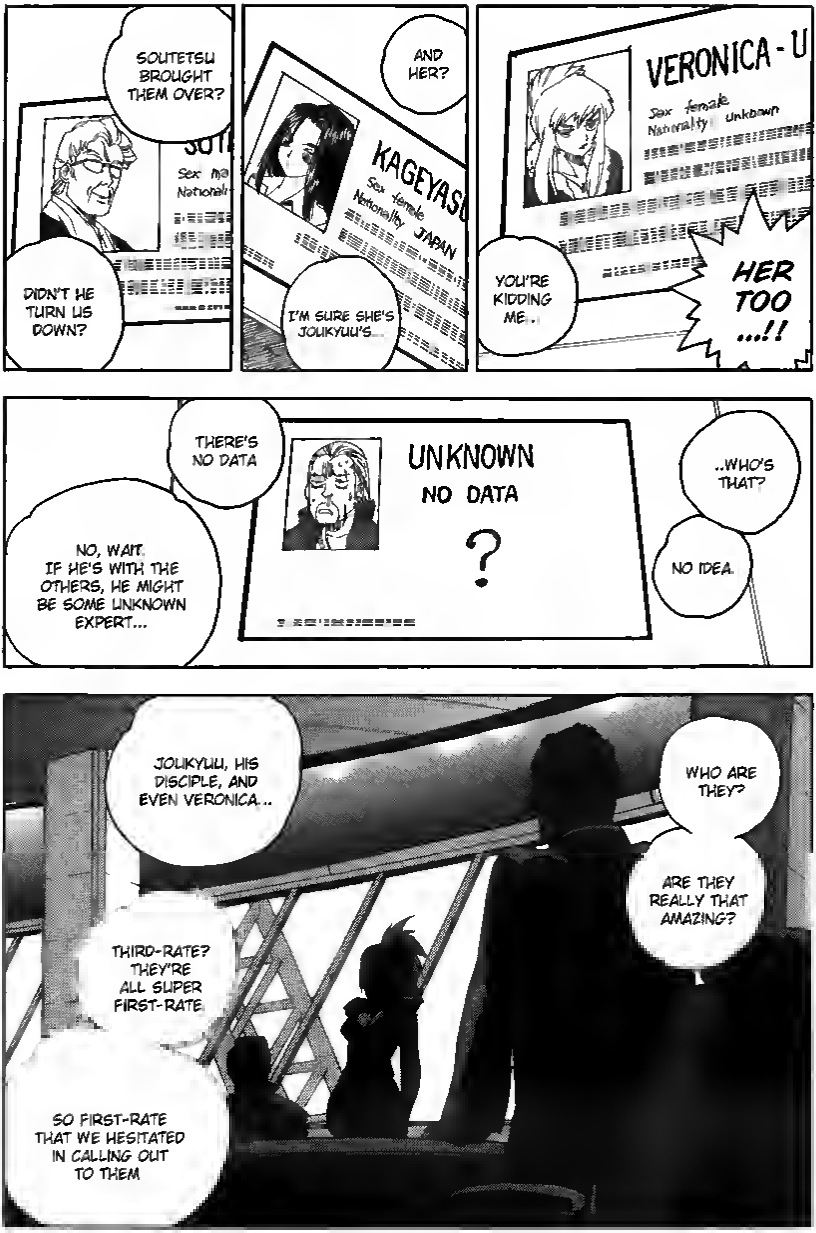
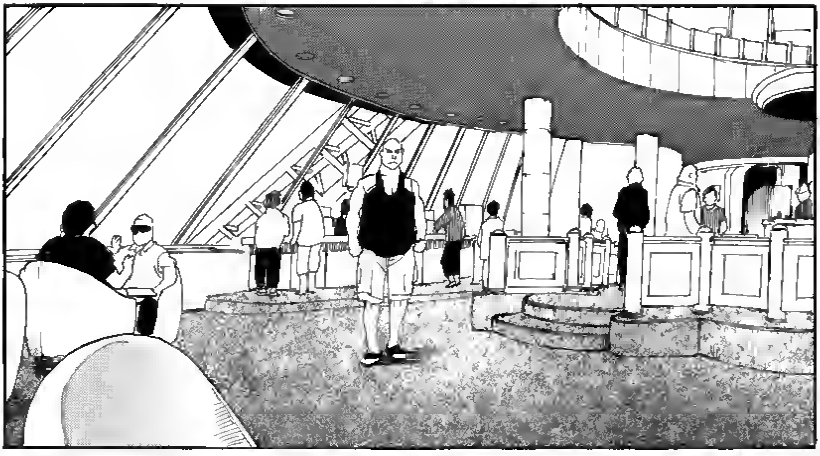

STOP

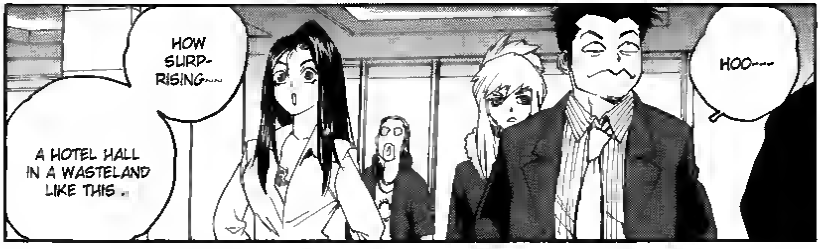

MORE THIRD-RATE ONES WHO HEARD THE RUMORS?
FIND OUT THEIR IDENTITIES.
Conference
MARTIAL ARTISTS WERE LURKING AROUND NEARBY?
IT'LL BE TROUBLESOME IF THEY TELL OTHERS ABOUT THIS, SO KEEP THEM CONFINED FOR A WHILE.
THEY WON'T EVEN SERVE AS A WARM UP.
WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE THIRD-RATE MARTIAL ARTISTS
HEY, HE'S...!?
WHO? JOU... KYUU?
NO WAY...!!
K - JOUKYU
sex: male
Nationality: JAPAN
!!?


SOUTETSU BROUGHT THEM OVER?
DIDN'T HE TURN US DOWN?
AND HER?
KAGEYASU
Sex female
Nationality JAPAN
I'M SURE SHE'S JOUKYUU'S...
VERONICA - U
Sex female
Nationality unknown
YOU'RE KIDDING ME..!
HER TOO ...!!
THERE'S NO DATA
UNKNOWN
NO DATA
?
NO, WAIT. IF HE'S WITH THE OTHERS, HE MIGHT BE SOME UNKNOWN EXPERT...
..WHO'S THAT?
NO IDEA.
JOUKYUU, HIS DISCIPLE, AND EVEN VERONICA...
WHO ARE THEY?
ARE THEY REALLY THAT AMAZING?
THIRD-RATE? THEY'RE ALL SUPER FIRST-RATE.
SO FIRST-RATE THAT WE HESITATED IN CALLING OUT TO THEM

HE'S THAT TROUBLE-SOME?
SEEING IT UP CLOSE IT REALLY IS HUGE
HOWEVER, THAT MAN IS FAMOUS FOR HIS INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT PERSONALITY.
WHAT DO WE DO?
HE'S SOMEONE WHO RARELY OBEYS THE ORDERS OF OTHERS...
BUT ARE THEY REALLY GOING TO HOLD THE BIGGEST MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT UNDER THE SUN HERE?
LOOKS LIKE AN ARENA,
STOP TALKING LIKE THAT.
WHY IS A GUY LIKE THAT HERE ON HIS OWN?

A BEAST SO FEARSOME THAT YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM IT
IS ENOUGH TO PIQUE MY INTEREST
IT WON'T HURT TO HAVE A LOOK AT THEM
WELL, IT'S OKAY.




HOW SURP-RISING~~
A HOTEL HALL IN A WASTELAND LIKE THIS.
HOO~~

BUT THE GUYS GATHERING HERE LOOK A BIT SINISTER
SCARY~~
ジロ
ジロ
ギロ
LIVE STRONG

ISN'T THAT VERONICA?
THAT VERONICA!?
HEY... THAT'S..
YOU'RE NOT ALL THAT FAMOUS AFTER ALL, SENSEI
NOTHING LESS FROM SUCH A BEAUTY
HOO--- YOU APPEAR TO BE QUITE FAMOUS, VERONICA
EVEN TENCOIN RAIDER, A FAMOUS AMERICAN ACROBATIC SHOOTER.
THAT'S SHIMONOFF, A RUSSIAN JUDO MASTER.
THAT'S THE MUAY THAI ARTIST, NAPACHAI.
QUITE A FEW FAMOUS ONES HERE. LOOK.

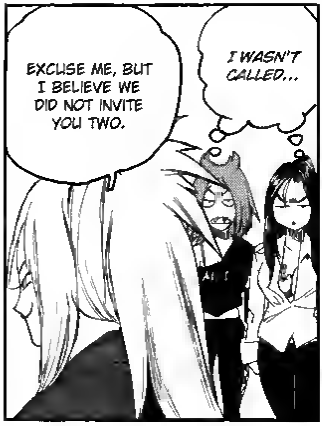
WHAT'S WITH THIS ATMOSPHERE? IT FEELS LIKE I WAS THROWN INTO A CAGE WITH WILD BEASTS!
I-IS AMERICA REALLY A COUNTRY INFESTED WITH SUCH KILLING INTENT!?
AWAWA-WA...
FAMILIARITY ASIDE, IT'S SURPRISING TO SEE HER HERE
SOUNDS FAMILIAR
EH? LAOSHI!?
AH!!
LAOSHI !!
"JOUKYUU"? IS SHE MAD...!?
IT CAN'T BE!
NO WAY!
IT REALLY IS DORNIER...
YOU'RE HERE TOO?
YOU CAME...! LONG TIME NO SEE!
JOUKYUU LAOSHI!!
AIKI

WAIT ~~!!
WHY IS EVEN VERO-NICA HERE!!?
RIGHT NOW, SHE'S MY SEX SLAVE
ALBEIT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS, SHUT UP, BOTH OF YOU
HEY, IT REALLY IS VERONICA!?
AND SHE'S WITH JOUKYUU!?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
THAT'S SERIOUS..
Aiki
PLEASE, JUST SHUT UP
SO WHY ARE YOU HERE!?
YES!
YOUR WOUNDS HAVE HEALED?
THANKS TO DORNIER, THE ATMOSPHERE BECAME EVEN MORE RESTLESS. .
Dornier
Skill: Original (Aikido)
Previously a member of an organization in a certain Eastern country just like Veronica Blindly believes in Joukyuu
AIKI

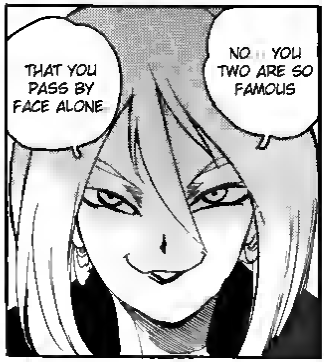
AHAHA... SORRY, FELLOW DISCIPLE
SEE? THANKS TO YOUR RUCKUS, WE'RE STANDING OUT NOW
AIKI
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE JOUKYUU AND VERONICA?
HEY, YOU GUYS
me too
WE ARE SO WHAT?
NO, NO, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON
HEY!
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU SEND YOUR OPPONENTS SOARING WHILE YOU YOURSELF ARE FLYING THROUGH THE SKY?
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE THE G-MAGICIAN!
JOUKYUU, YOU'RE BEING TREATED LIKE AN ALIEN.

THE BAD NEWS IS THAT I'LL NOW SEND YOU FLYING.
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT IT'S TRUE THAT I SEND PEOPLE FLYING.
TO PUT THIS SIMPLY,
I HAVE GOOD AND BAD NEWS
TH-THIS IS THE SORT OF THING THAT WOULD USUALLY GET SHOVED ONTO ME...
COULD MY POSITION BE IN DANGER?
I'LL DO IT
LAOSHI! LET ME!
AIKI
HA HA HA
A GUY WHO DOESN'T EVEN WEIGH 150 POUNDS WANTS TO SEND US FLYING?
IS THAT THE SO-CALLED "ORIENTAL MYSTERY"?

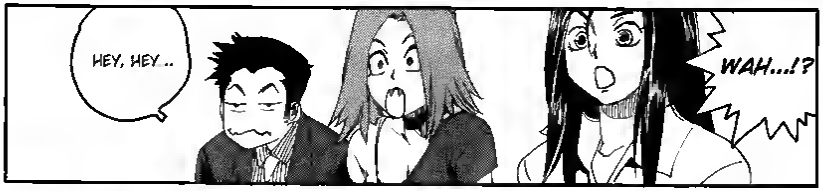
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM FIGHTING HERE...
AWW...
I CAN'T SEE DUE TO THE POSITION OF THE LIGHTS!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?


EXCUSE ME, BUT I BELIEVE WE DID NOT INVITE YOU TWO.
I WASN'T CALLED...

HOO, SO THIS PARTY REQUIRES AN INVITATION?
MISSY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME~?


THAT YOU PASS BY FACE ALONE
NO ! YOU TWO ARE SO FAMOUS

JOUKYUU-SAMA AND VERONICA-SAMA, I TAKE IT?
I WELCOME YOU HERE.


HEY, HEY..
WAH...!?

I GUESS YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO TELL US THE TRUTH, HUH?
SOUNDS A BIT FISHY THAT SOMEONE YOU'D LET PASS BY FACE ALONE DIDN'T RECEIVE AN INVITATION.

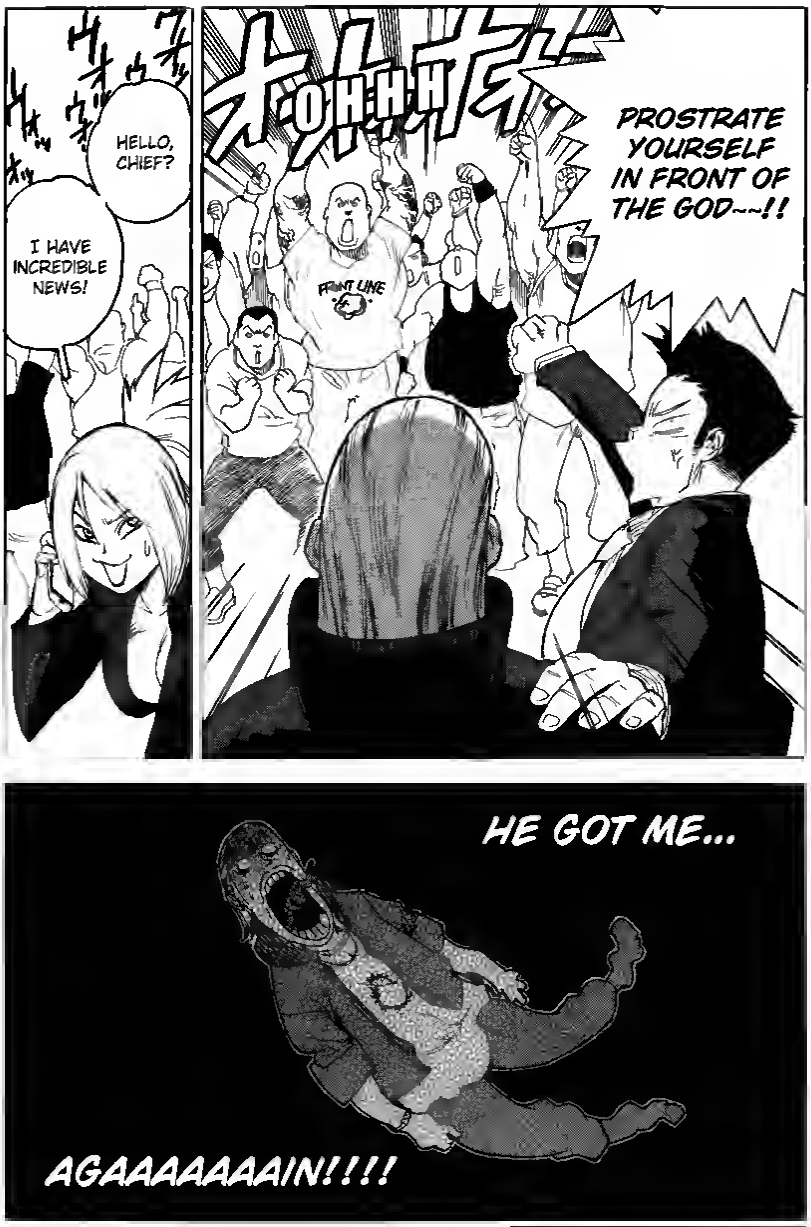
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL SO SUDDENLY...?

LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.
HMPH.
チン
YOU'LL GIVE US THE VIP TREATMENT, CORRECT?
IT'S JUST THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CALL OUT TO YOU, SINCE YOU ARE SO REVERED.
DON'T BE SO UNTRUSTING.
どど
ヒソ
THAT PERSON.
OF COURSE
AH, BUT BEFORE THAT, I HAVE ONE LAST QUESTION
WHAT?
EH?
M-M-ME?

WATCH OUT!!!
EXCUSE MY RUDENESS, BUT WE HAVE NO DATA ON YOU...
COULD YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF...?
!?
?
THIS DUDE... NO, THIS MAN...
YOU REALLY MUSTN'T HAVE ANY DATA.
IDIOT!! YOU'LL DIE IF YOU APPROACH HIM SO CARELESSLY!!
HUH!?

50 years?
TRAINED IN SOLITUDE FOR 50 YEARS
BEFORE FINALLY COMING OUT INTO THE OPEN! HE'S A LEGENDARY WAR GOD!!
HIS NAME IS BULL THE INFINITE!!!
EHH ~~!?
WE'RE ALL SUBORDINATES OF THIS MAN!!
ME! VERONICA! HOUJO! AND EVEN SOUTETSU!

EH~~~?
AIKI
IS THAT SO..?
FAINTED
I-IS THAT..
TRUE?
ゴクリ…
TRULY THE UNTOUCHABLE "BULL"!!
AN AVERAGE PERSON COULD DIE BY MERELY ENCROACHING UPON HIS AURA'!
PLEASE BE CAREFUL!


HELLO, CHIEF?
I HAVE INCREDIBLE NEWS!
OHHH
PROSTRATE YOURSELF IN FRONT OF THE GOD~~!!
FRONT LINE
HE GOT ME...
AGAAAAAAAIN!!!!

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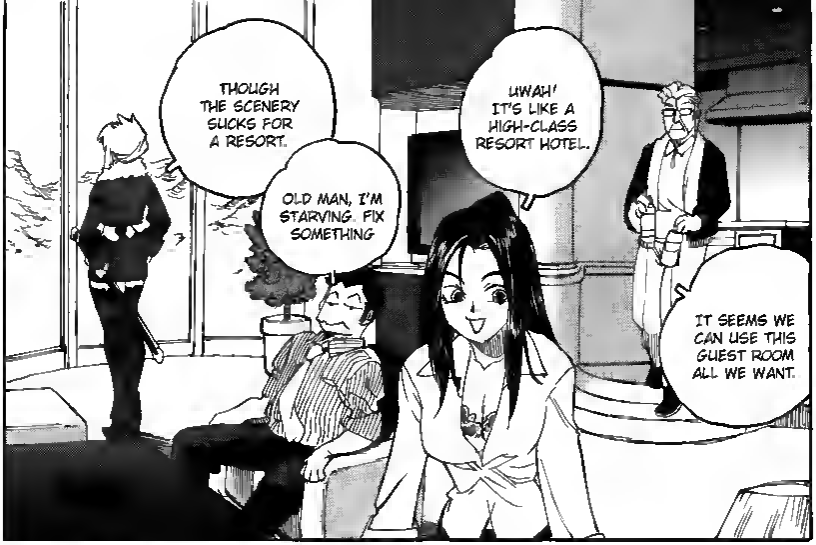
ISUTOSHI presents
イストシ
FOLLOWING
E INVITATION
FROM THE
KARATE MASTER
UTETSU,
JOKER
WHAT AWAITS
THE JOUKYUU
GROUP AT THE
FACILITY IN
AMERICA?
ISUTOSHI COMICS INFORMATION

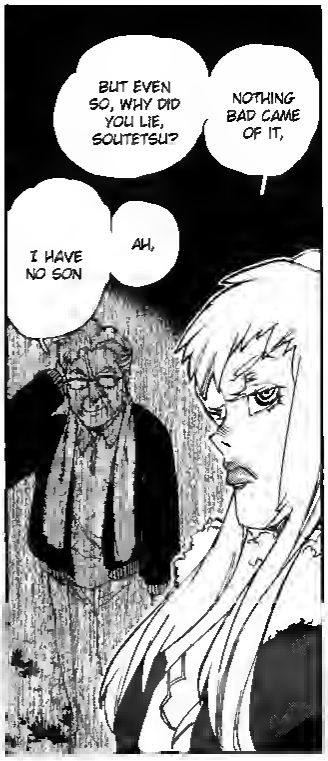
◆ THE JOUKYUU GROUP FLEW TO AMERICA IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOUTETSU'S INVITATION! WAITING FOR THEM ARE VARIOUS EXPERTS FROM EACH COUNTRY!?

オッ
THAT GUY HAS JOUKYUU, VERONICA, AND EVEN HOUJO UNDER HIS CONTROL!?
WHAT KIND OF MONSTER IS HE!?
SOME INCREDIBLE DARK HORSE SHOWED UP...
BUT IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO HAVE STAYED UNNOTICED UNTIL NOW?
NO IDEA... EITHER WAY, MARTIAL ARTISTS SHROUD THEMSELVES IN MYSTERY.
SOME AREN'T EVEN AFTER FAME..

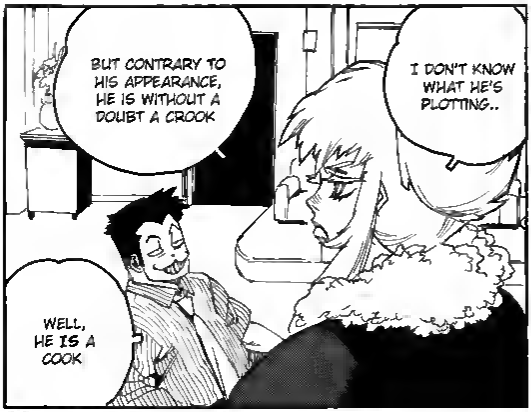
...CAN I DECLINE?
NO.
JUST TREAT THEM COURTEOUSLY FOR NOW.
YOU'LL OBSERVE THEM AS THEIR ATTENDANT.
EHH!?
WHATEVER THE CASE, THEY NEED SPECIAL ATTENTION.
NO, IT'S "BULL".
ESPECIALLY THIS GUY CALLED MR. BULL.


UWAH! IT'S LIKE A HIGH-CLASS RESORT HOTEL.
THOUGH THE SCENERY SUCKS FOR A RESORT.
OLD MAN, I'M STARVING. FIX SOMETHING
IT SEEMS WE CAN USE THIS GUEST ROOM ALL WE WANT.

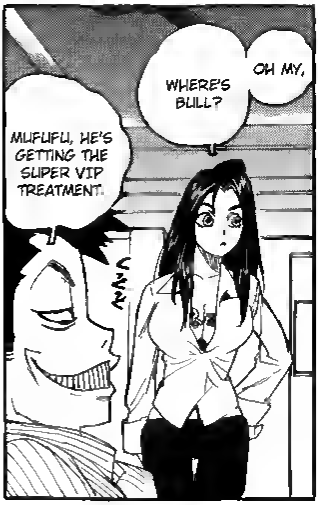
ACTUALLY, I'M AFTER THE PRIZE MONEY HERE
MY APOLOGIES
I NEED THE MONEY TO EXPAND MY BUSINESS IN AMERICA


BUT EVEN SO, WHY DID YOU LIE, SOUTETSU?
NOTHING BAD CAME OF IT,
AH,
I HAVE NO SON

THEY SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE SOME RICE, SO MAKE RICE BALLS.
AND MAKE YOU SOME-THING
I'LL LOOK AT WHAT THE KITCHEN HAS TO OFFER



TN: lame wordplay - cook -> crook



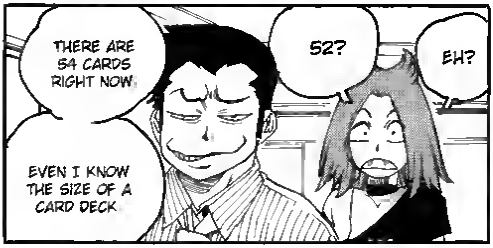
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE ARE CLOSE TO LAS VEGAS.
A CASINO, HUH..?
LET'S PLAY FOR A BIT!
LAOSHI! THIS MAY BE A SMALL PLACE, BUT IT HAS A CASINO
THE NOISY ONE CAME AGAIN ..
LAOSHI!!
MMM. SO IT'S A MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT AFTER ALL?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD REHABILITATION, OR AT LEAST A WARM UP BEFORE GOING TO JAPAN.
THEY SCOUTED ME WHEN I TRIED TO GO TO JAPAN.
ANYWAY, WHY ARE YOU HERE?

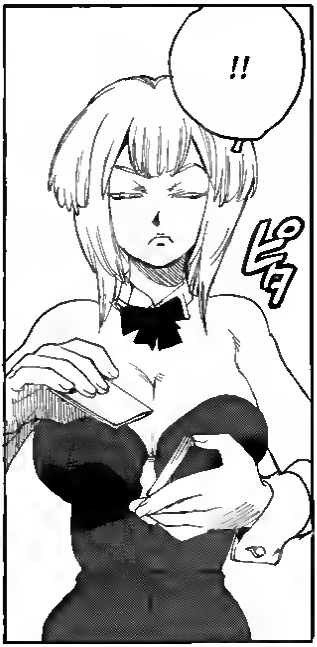
パラ ラララ ラララ
HIS BAD HABIT POPPED UP AGAIN!
SO ROMANTIC
IF WE'RE SPEAKING OF CASINOS, THAT MEANS BEAUTIFUL DEALER GIRLS
パラララ
MISTER JOUKYUU.
I'M NOT A DEALER,

WHO WAS CALLED HERE.
ピラ!!
ONE OF THOSE
パラララ
パラララ
I'M ALSO.
HOO---
WHICH MEANS YOU'RE A MARTIAL ARTIST!?
NO.
THE CARDS BECOME AN EDGED TOOL AND CUT--
I GET IT! YOU FIGHT BY THROWING CARDS!

I CAN OFFER 25 CENTS FOR A ROUND
SURE, BUT I HAVE NO MONEY TO BET.
HOW ABOUT A GAME, MISTER?
THIS IS JUST A HOBBY OF MINE.
BET A "FINGER" INSTEAD OF MONEY?
LET'S SEE... HOW ABOUT YOU
*STOK USD. WE'RE IN AMERICA NOW, REMEMBER?
WHAT!?
I'LL BREAK ONE OF YOUR FINGERS!!
IF YOU LOSE...
I'LL PLACE $10,000.

*Jokers left out





シャカ
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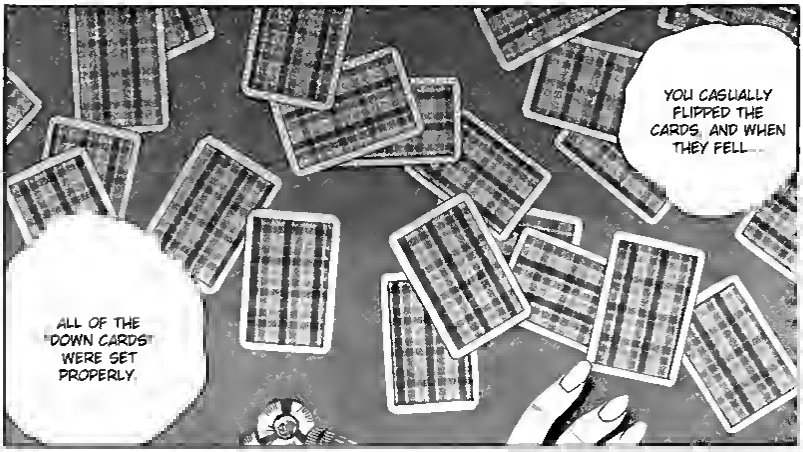
シャカ
LAOSHI, BE CAREFUL.
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY A CHEATER.
NO PROBLEM. I THINK.
AIKI
OHH, THERE YOU ARE.
MR. JOUKYUU, I MADE RICE BALLS.
OH, THANK YOU, OLD MAN.
BRING THEM OVER.
AIKI

OH, EVEN ROASTED ONES
NO WORRIES. AS A JAPANESE MAN, RICE BALLS WILL SUFFICE FOR NOW.
PLEASE MAKE DO WITH RICE BALLS FOR TODAY.
THERE WERE HARDLY ANY INGREDIENTS SUITABLE FOR JAPANESE FOOD, SO I ORDERED THEM.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO PLAY? POKER? GIN RUMMY? BRIDGE?
YOU'RE ALREADY EATING
SORRY, DO YOU MIND IF I EAT WHILE WE PLAY?
I DON'T MIND WHAT WE PLAY, BUT IT'S BORING IF WE MARTIAL ARTISTS PLAY NORMALLY.

パラ
パラ
パラ
WEREN'T... YOU AN AMATEUR WITH CARDS!?
THIS MUCH IS NOTHING FOR MY SKILLED FINGERS
!?

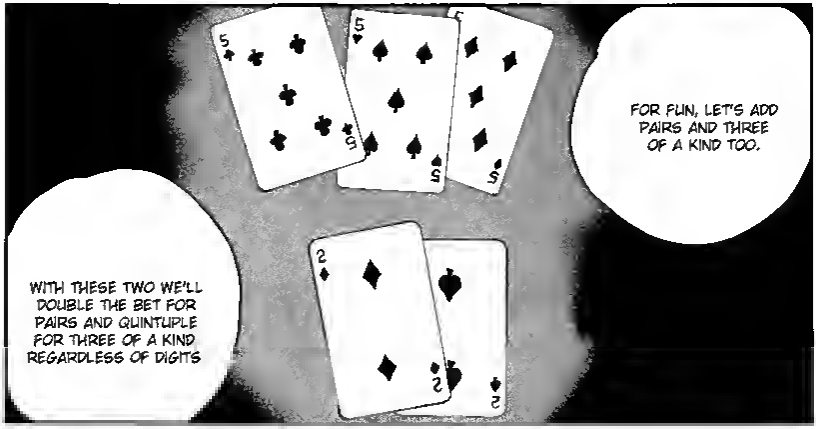

YOU CASUALLY FLIPPED THE CARDS, AND WHEN THEY FELL...
ALL OF THE "DOWN CARDS" WERE SET PROPERLY.

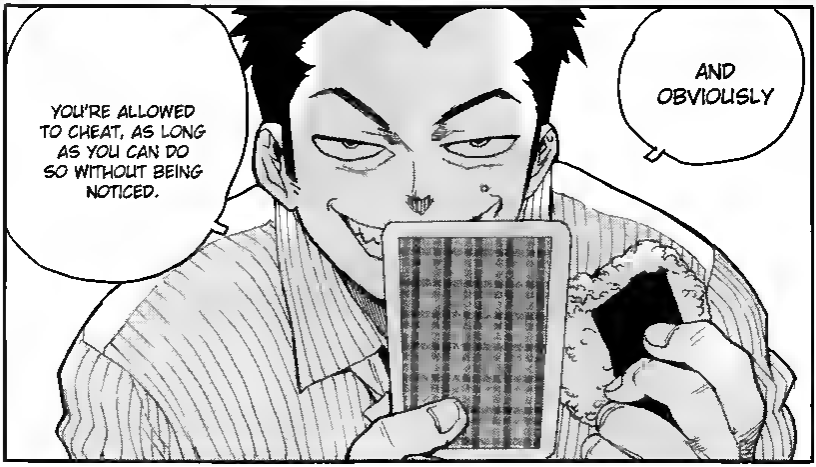
LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE.
WE EACH DRAW 2 OR 3 CARDS, AND THE ONE WITH THE SUM CLOSEST TO EITHER 9 OR 19 WINS
PICTURE CARDS COUNT AS 0, AND YOU'RE FREE TO PICK A THIRD CARD AT WHATEVER VALUE.

THIS IS CHILD'S PLAY.
THAT'S AMAZING!
AH,

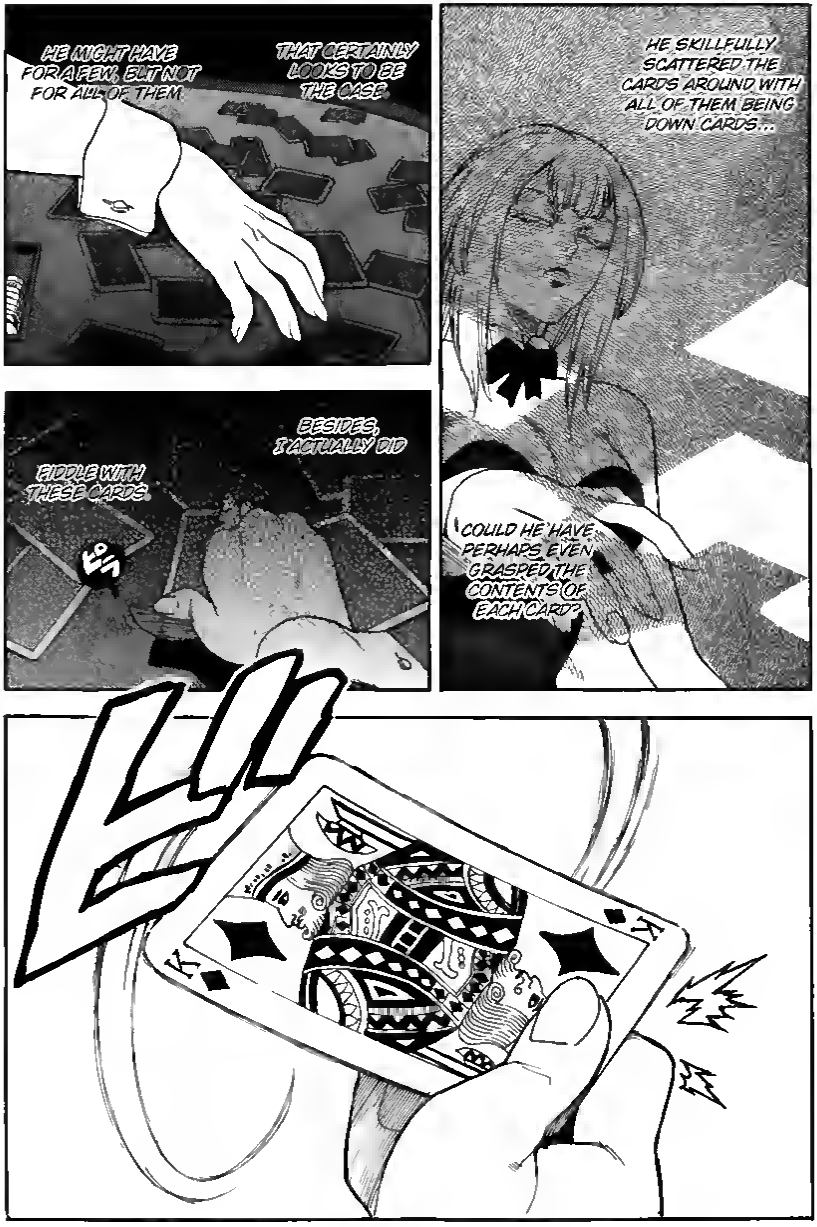
SO? WHAT DO WE DO WITH THESE CARDS?
HOW ABOUT SOME IRREGULAR BACCARAT?

SO WITH THE CARDS SCATTERED RANDOMLY LIKE THIS, IT'S HARD TO CHEAT.
WE DON'T TRUST EACH OTHER ENOUGH TO BANK ON IT,

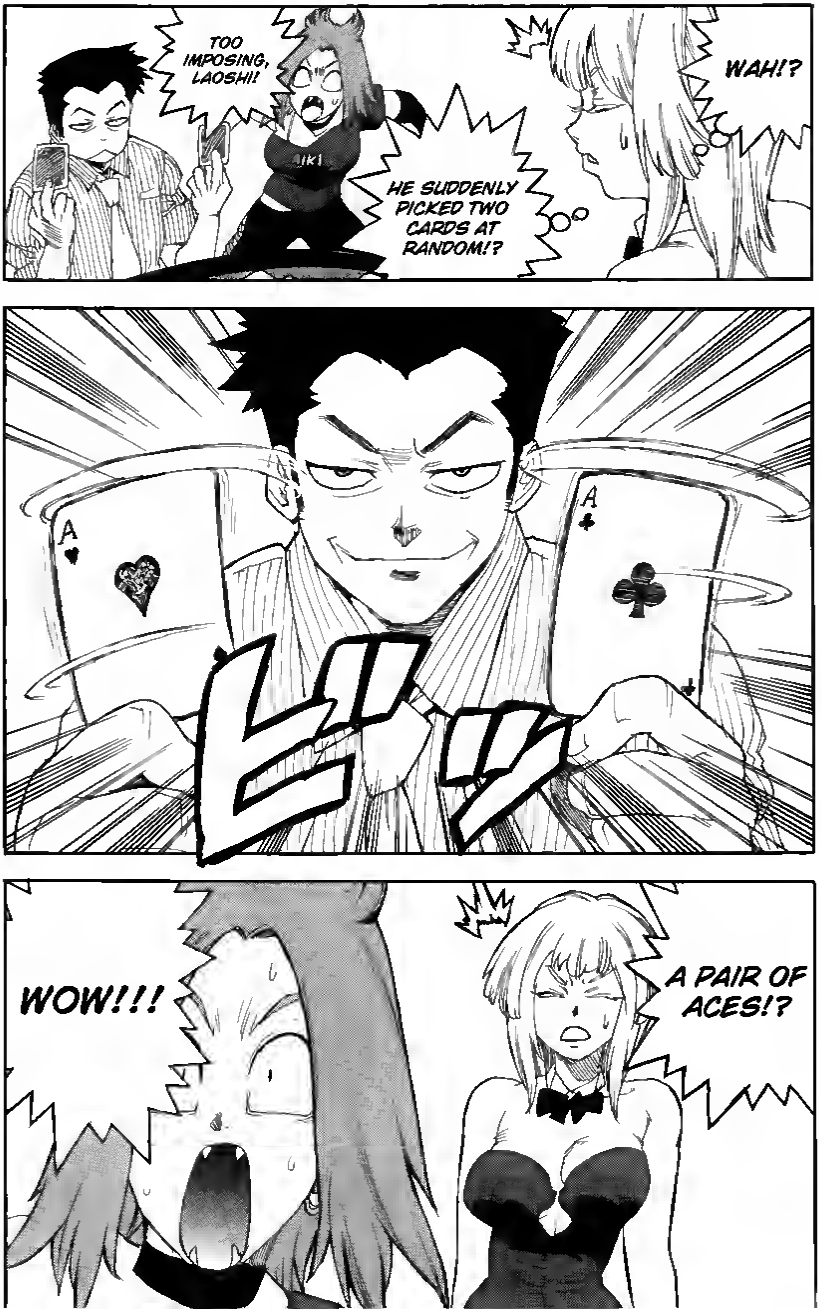

FOR FUN, LET'S ADD PAIRS AND THREE OF A KIND TOO.
WITH THESE TWO WE'LL DOUBLE THE BET FOR PAIRS AND QUINTUPLE FOR THREE OF A KIND REGARDLESS OF DIGITS

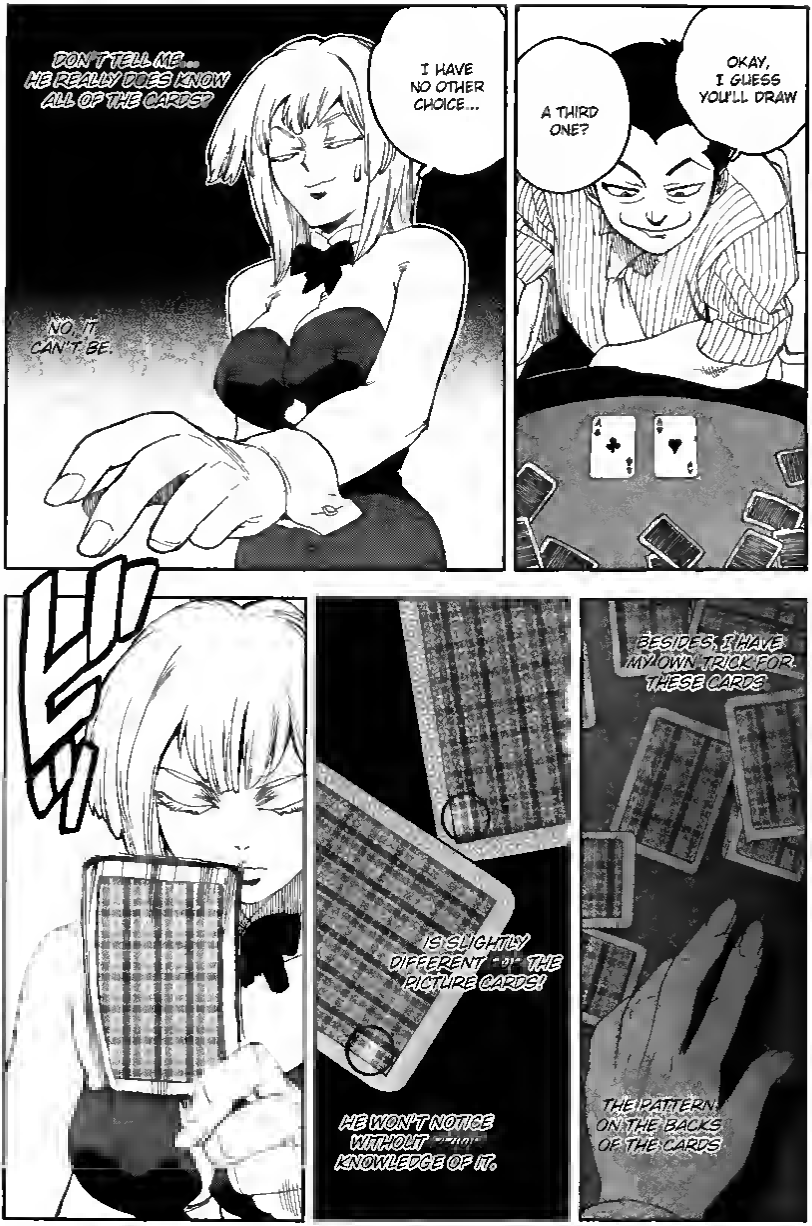

AND OBVIOUSLY
YOU'RE ALLOWED TO CHEAT, AS LONG AS YOU CAN DO SO WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.

AFTER YOU GET THREE OF A KIND.
ASK ME AGAIN
IF I GET THREE OF A KIND...
MISTER JOUKYUU?
CAN I BREAK ALL OF THE FINGERS ON ONE OF YOUR HANDS.
OKAY, I DEALT. OR RATHER, "SCATTERED" THE CARDS,
SO YOU START, MISSY.
OKAY...
LET'S SEE...
I'LL LET YOU RIDE ME FOR ONE NIGHT.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE ...?
YOU'LL BE MY TOY FOR ONE NIGHT
BUT IF I CATCH YOU CHEATING,
AND IF I CATCH YOU CHEATING?


HE MIGHT HAVE FOR A FEW, BUT NOT FOR ALL OF THEM.
THAT CERTAINLY LOOKS TO BE THE CASE.
HE SKILLFULLY SCATTERED THE CARDS AROUND WITH ALL OF THEM BEING DOWN CARDS...
COULD HE HAVE, PERHAPS, EVEN GRASPED THE CONTENTS OF EACH CARD?
BESIDES, I ACTUALLY DID
FIDDLE WITH THESE CARDS.
LLL

COUNTS AS ZERO
KING...
SEEMS FISHY~
IGH!? A PAIR ALREADY!?
HOP--
OKAY, YOUR TURN


TOO IMPOSING, LAOSHI!
WAH!?
HE SUDDENLY PICKED TWO CARDS AT RANDOM!?
A
A
ピッ
WOW!!!
A PAIR OF ACES!?


I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE...
DON'T TELL ME... HE REALLY DOES KNOW ALL OF THE CARDS?
NO, IT CAN'T BE.
OKAY, I GUESS YOU'LL DRAW
A THIRD ONE?
BESIDES, I HAVE MY OWN TRICK FOR THESE CARDS
THE PATTERN ON THE BACKS OF THE CARDS
IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE PICTURE CARDS!
HE WON'T NOTICE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

GEH!? FOR REAL? A THREE OF A KIND WITH KINGS!?
SEEMS EVEN MORE FISHY
FUH
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SINK OR SWIM, SINCE ALL OF THE PICTURE CARDS HAVE BEEN FIDDLED WITH
WHAT NOW, LAOSHI!? YOU NEED ANOTHER ACE.
CALM DOWN, DORNIER
AIKI

IMPOSS-
IBLE...!!
OHH!?
HE DREW
ANOTHER
ACE!!!

A CHECK WOULD BE FINE.
YOU HAVE NO PROOF, SO PAY UP
HEY, HEY, YOUR THREE KINGS ARE SUSPICIOUS AS WELL.
KUH... YOU CHEATED FOR SURE!!
IT'S MY WIN FIVEFOLD, SO ¥60,000, PLEASE.
YES, I DO.
OLD MAN, GOT ANY MORE RICE BALLS?
WOW! I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM YOU, LAOSHI!
EH?
YOU HAVE RICE GRAINS ON YOUR BACK...
DORNIER-SAN, WAS IT?

◆ JOUKYUU BRILLIANTLY DECEIVED HIS OPPONENT! BUT WHAT'S THE MOTIVE OF THE PEOPLE GATHERING AT THIS FACILITY!?

WHEN I SCATTERED THE CARDS AT THE BEGINNING, I LEFT OUT JUST THE ACES AND STUCK THEM TO YOUR BACK WITH RICE GRAINS
AH... FROM THE RICE BALLS?
ON MY TURN, I STUCK THE ACE TO THE PALM OF MY HAND WITH THE RICE
AND EXCHANGED IT WITH THE DRAWN ONE.
CHILD'S PLAY FOR MY QUICK FINGERS
THE REASON I SCATTERED THE CARDS
WAS TO MAKE IT HARDER TO TELL THAT CARDS WERE MISSING
WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE TECHNIQUE!!

SO YOU IMPROVISED WITH MY RICE BALLS AND USED THEM? NOT BAD.
I TOLD YOU,
RICE BALLS WILL SUFFICE FOR A JAPANESE MAN.
YOU'RE A GREAT GAMBLER, LAOSHI!
DAMN...
I'LL REMEMBER THIS, JOUKYUU!

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Translator: PROzess
Cleaner: Sam
TSer: Weaper
QC/PR: Koro

AIKI S

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ISUTOSHI
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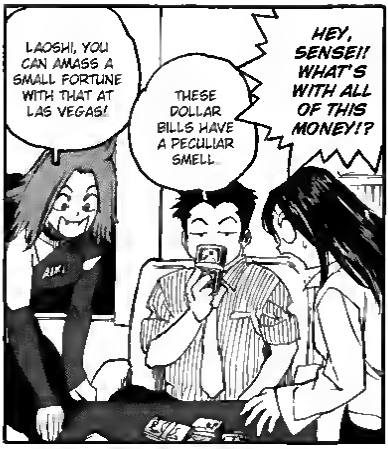
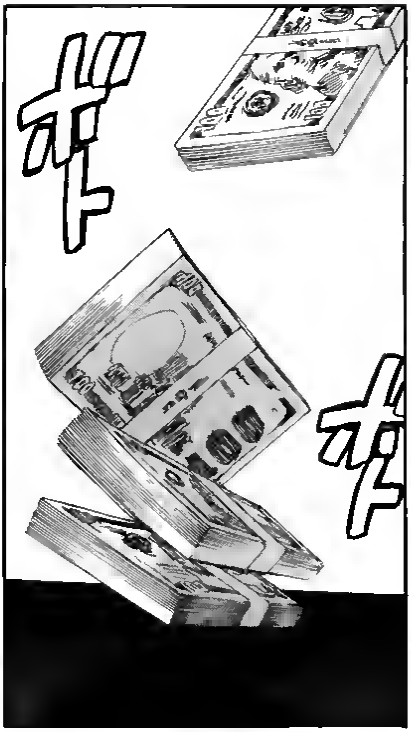
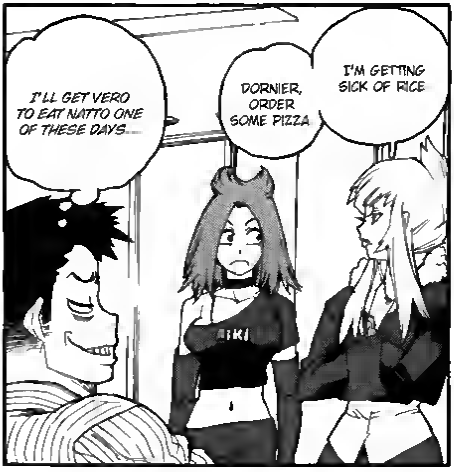
◆ JOUKYUU WON HIS "BET" WITH THE BEAUTIFUL DEALER AT THE FACILITY WHERE EXPERTS HAVE GATHERED, BUT NOW...!?


LAOSHI, YOU CAN AMASS A SMALL FORTUNE WITH THAT AT LAS VEGAS!
THESE DOLLAR BILLS HAVE A PECULIAR SMELL...
HEY, SENSEI! WHAT'S WITH ALL OF THIS MONEY!?





USE THAT TO COOK LUXURIOUS MEALS FOR ME WHILE WE'RE HERE!
I DON'T CARE IF WE'RE IN AMERICA I WANT THE FINEST JAPANESE FOOD THERE IS

DEAR "PARTI-CIPANTS",
WE ARE CONDUCTING "MEASUREMENTS" AT 3 O'CLOCK.
THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE CALLED,
PLEASE GATHER AT THE MEAS-UREMENT HALL.
"MEASURE-MENTS"..?
...

THEY WANT TO GAUGE OUR POWERS? WHAT FOR?
GATHERING MARTIAL ARTISTS AND "MEASURING" THEM, HUH...?
OR SO GOES THE FACADE.
ISN'T THIS A MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT?
"MEASUREMENTS" RATHER THAN A "MATCH"?
EH? ME!?
NUMBER 511, MISS KAGEYASU.
NUMBER 183, MISS BLAIR.
NUMBER 103, MISTER RAIDER.

YOU'RE UNUSUALLY MOTIVATED
ROGER!
GOOD TIMING. TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THINGS
HOO, KAGEYASU IS UP FIRST
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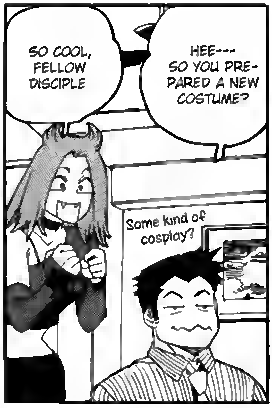
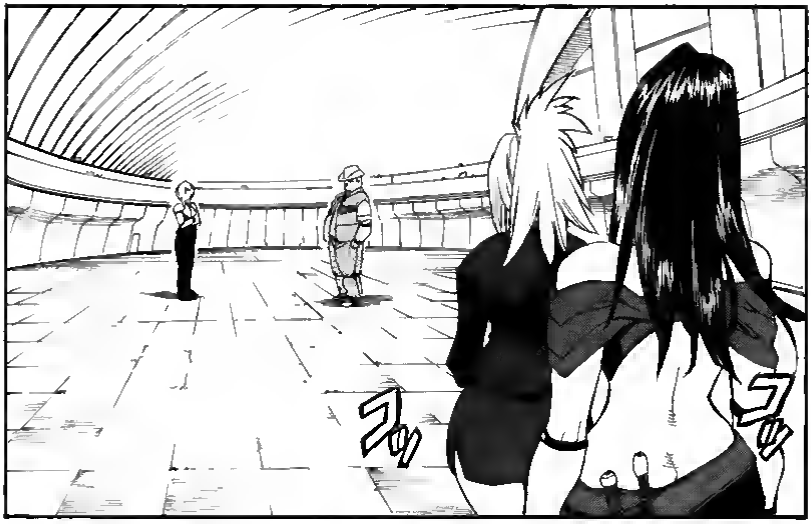

SO COOL, FELLOW DISCIPLE
HEE--- SO YOU PREPARED A NEW COSTUME?
Some kind of cosplay?

UFUFU~ JUST WATCH ME, THE NEW KAGEYASU!
IF I DON'T DO THIS, I'LL JUST FADE INTO THE BACKGROUND.
IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION OR HAS SHE GROWN IMPATIENT?

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
AN ARENA...? NO, THERE'S NOTHING HERE. NOT EVEN VISITOR STANDS
OKAY, FOLLOW ME TO THE CHANGING ROOM
CHANGING ROOM!?
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO TAKE OFF THESE "VICTORY CLOTHES" I JUST PUT ON!?
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT

WHAT'S THIS?
THESE ARE USED TO MAKE GAMES, AREN'T THEY?
POINTERS...
THIS IS A "MEASUREMENT", SO WE ATTACHED POINTERS TO ALL PARTS OF YOUR BODY
I REFUSE!
A full-body suit?
THE GREATER EFFICIENCY WOULD HELP US
TAKING THAT INTO ACCOUNT, HOW ABOUT WEARING THIS?
THE POINTERS ON YOUR BODY EXPRESS YOUR MOVEMENTS AS DATA.
IT'S SIMILAR TO MOTION CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY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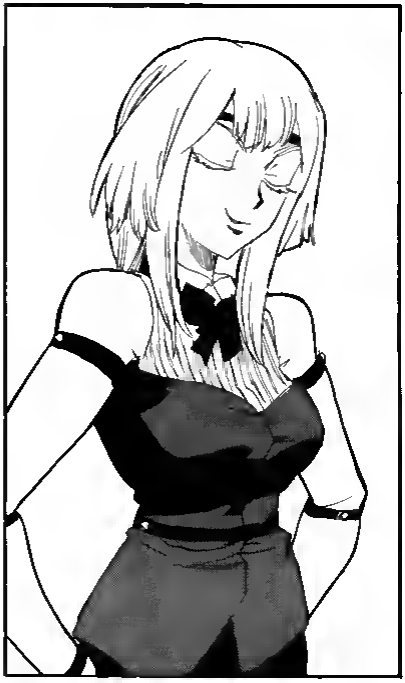
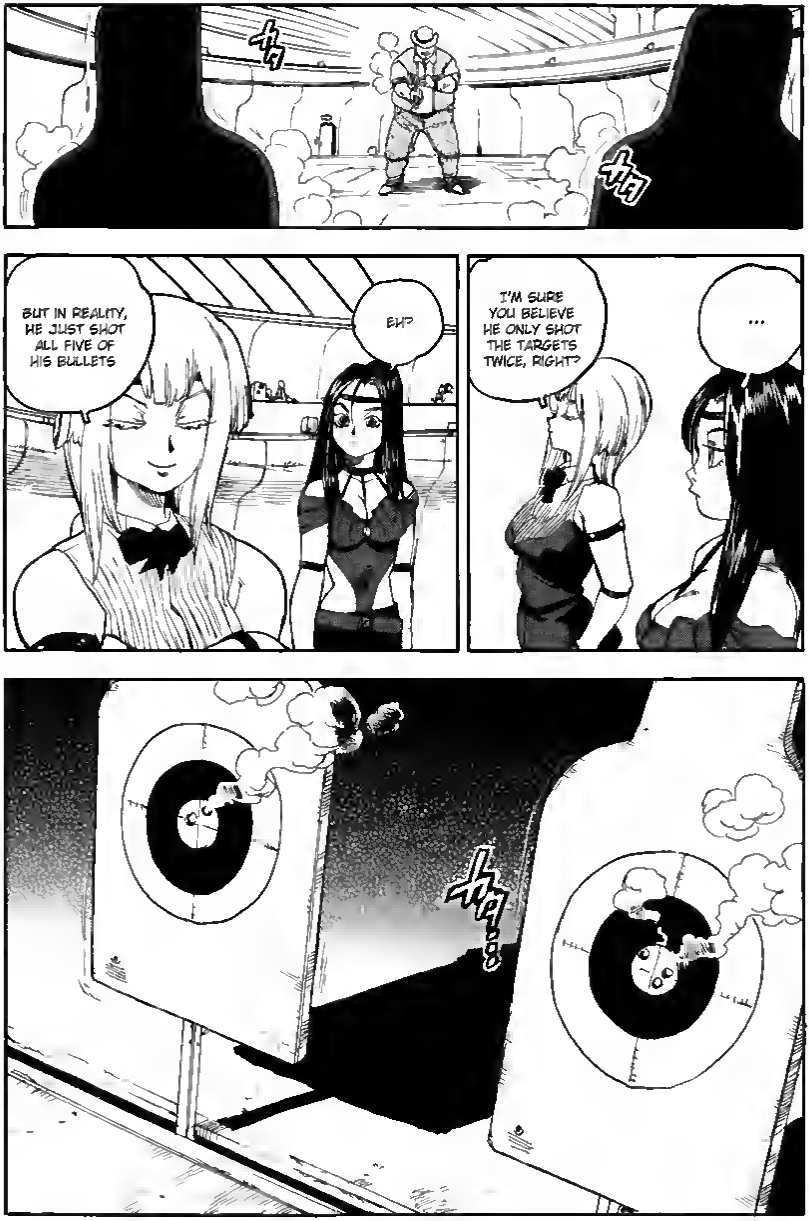
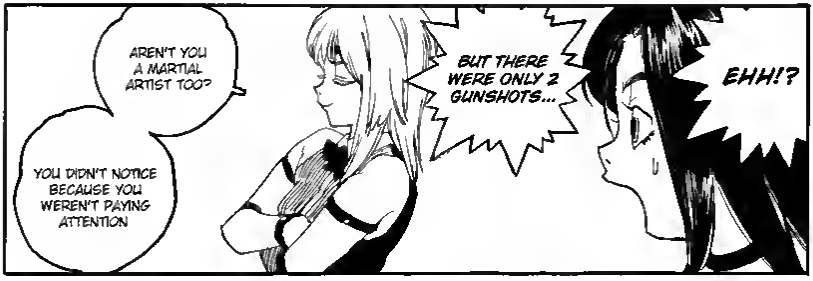


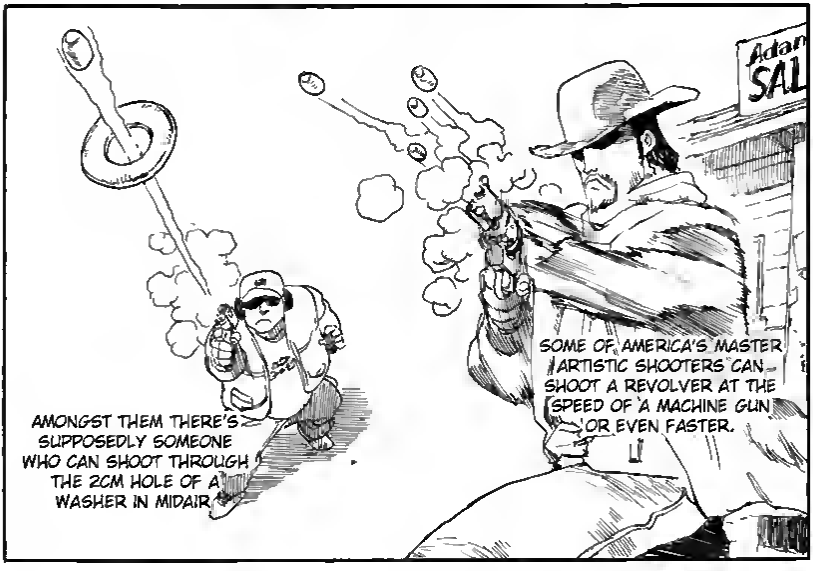
A S&W M500, HUH...?
IT'S QUITE POWERFUL, BUT MORE OF A HOBBY GUN, NOT USED IN ACTUAL COMBAT
WHATEVER
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.
HUH? I'M THE ONLY GUY?
AND YOU'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT THAT?
AMERICANS SHOULD HALVE THEIR FOOD INTAKE
MOREOVER, THAT STOMACH LOOKS LIKE YOU FILL IT WITH STEAK EVERY DAY.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS PROJECTILE ACCURACY AND SPEED.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO HANDLE MY GUN WITH MY STOMACH.

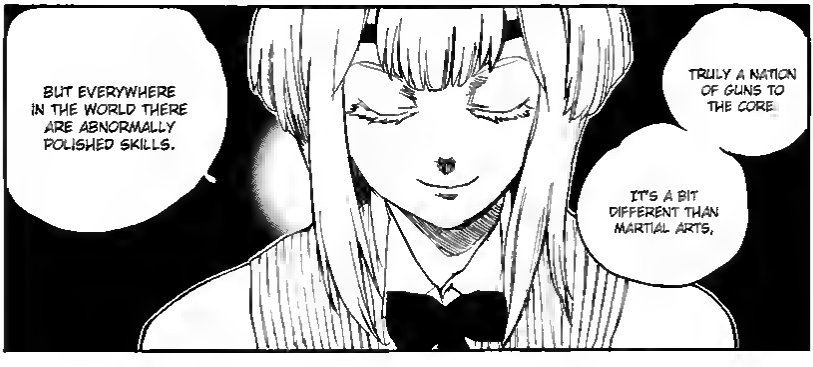
YEAH, NICE TO MEET YOU, MISSY.
I'M KAGEYASU. NICE TO MEET YOU.
KAGEYASU!?
NOT AN ACTUAL FIGHTER.
AS THINGS TURNED OUT, HE'S A MASTER ARTISTIC SHOOTER.
JUST PERFECT. I'LL REPAY MY DEBT FROM YESTERDAY.
THAT KAGEYASU? JOUKYUU'S DISCIPLE!?
??
I GET THE FEELING SHE'S GLARING AT ME...
MISTER RAIDER FIRST, PLEASE
OKAY

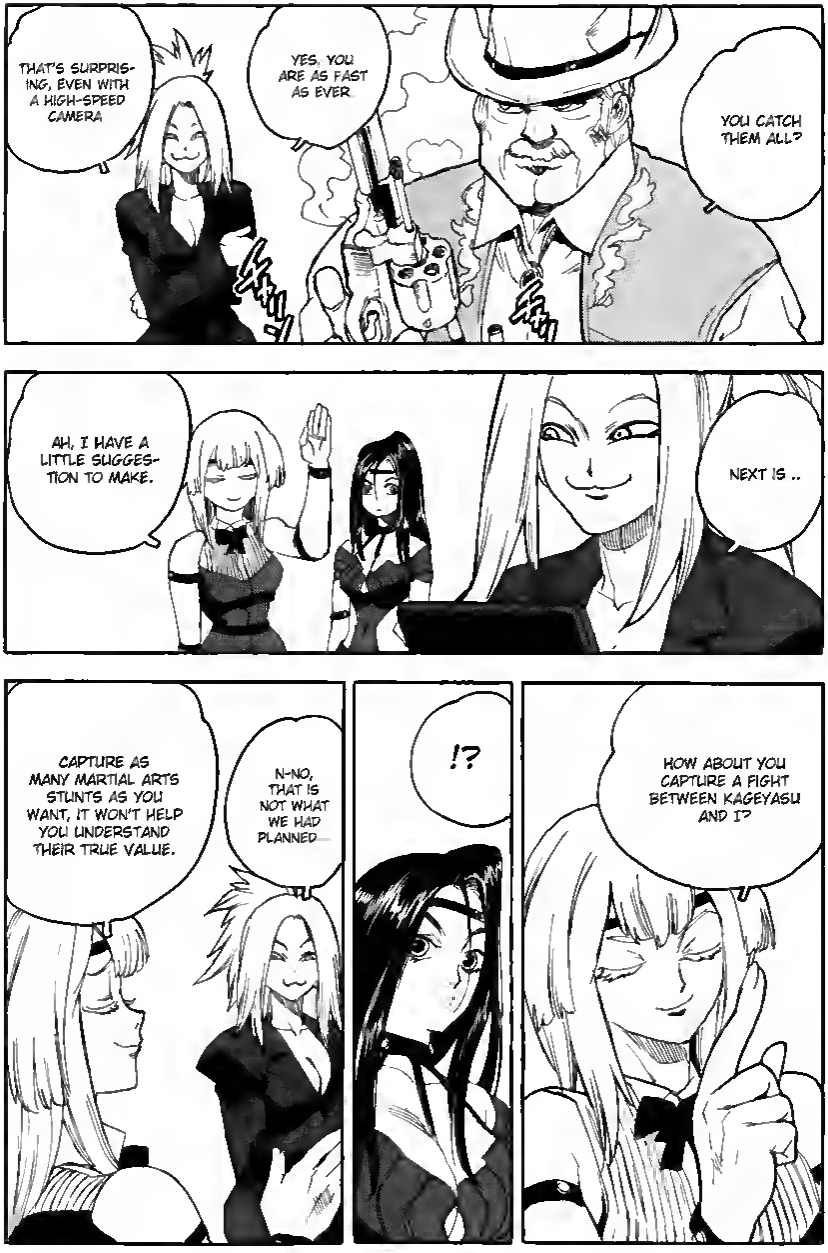
RAISE
READY ANY TIME

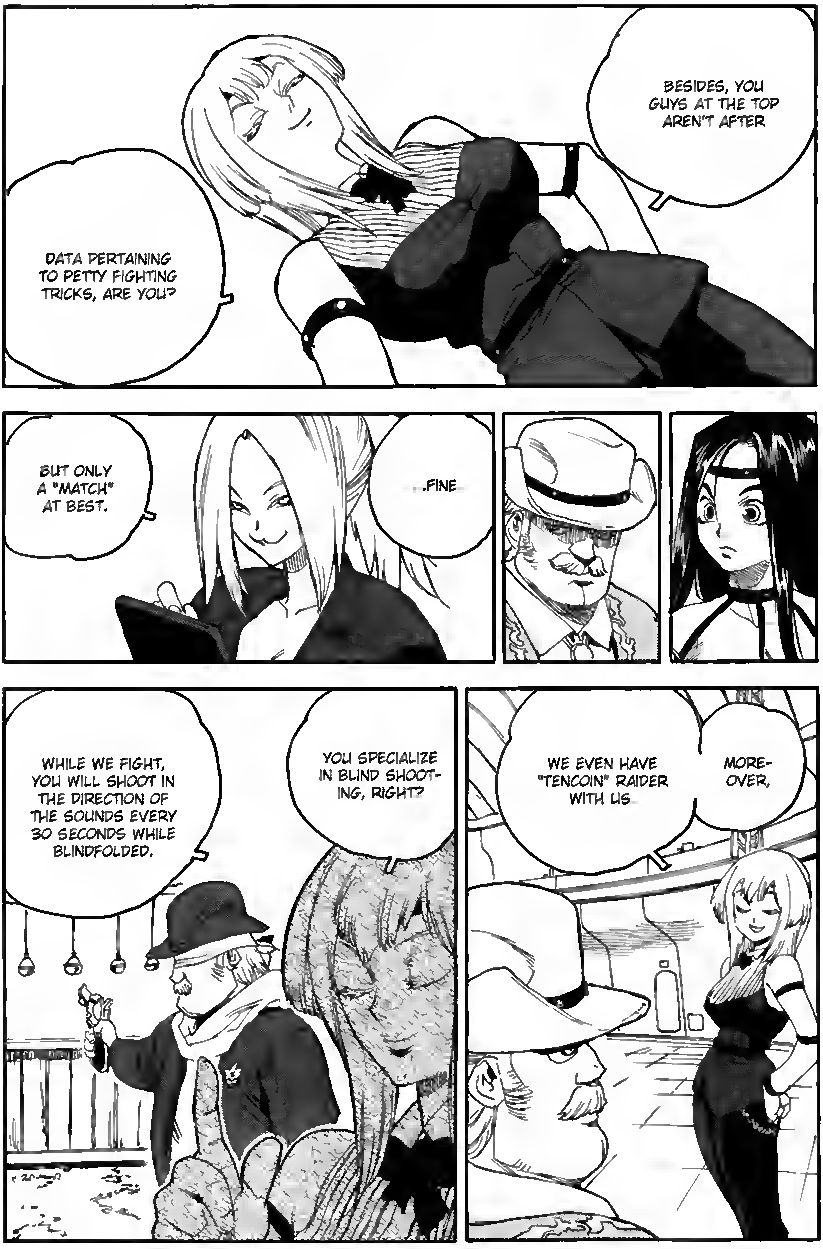

BUT IN REALITY, HE JUST SHOT ALL FIVE OF HIS BULLETS
EH?
I'M SURE YOU BELIEVE HE ONLY SHOT THE TARGETS TWICE, RIGHT?
...


EHH!?
BUT THERE WERE ONLY 2 GUNSHOTS...
AREN'T YOU A MARTIAL ARTIST TOO?
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION


SOME OF AMERICA'S MASTER ARTISTIC SHOOTERS CAN SHOOT A REVOLVER AT THE SPEED OF A MACHINE GUN OR EVEN FASTER.
AMONGST THEM THERE'S SUPPOSEDLY SOMEONE WHO CAN SHOOT THROUGH THE 2CM HOLE OF A WASHER IN MIDAIR.

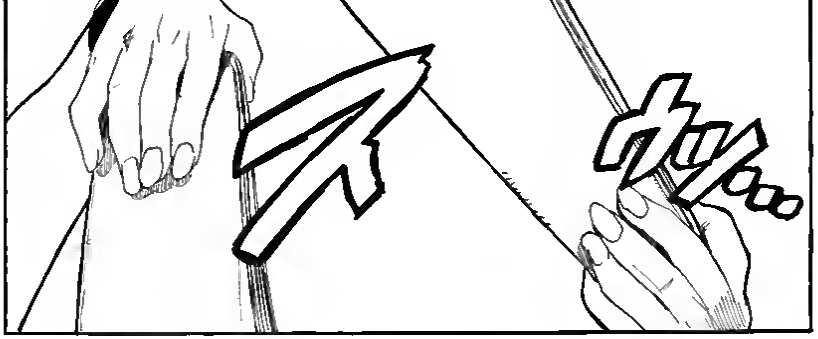

BUT EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD THERE ARE ABNORMALLY POLISHED SKILLS.
TRULY A NATION OF GUNS TO THE CORE.
IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT THAN MARTIAL ARTS.


THAT'S SURPRISING, EVEN WITH A HIGH-SPEED CAMERA
YES, YOU ARE AS FAST AS EVER.
YOU CATCH THEM ALL?
AH, I HAVE A LITTLE SUGGESTION TO MAKE.
NEXT IS ..
CAPTURE AS MANY MARTIAL ARTS STUNTS AS YOU WANT, IT WON'T HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THEIR TRUE VALUE.
N-NO, THAT IS NOT WHAT WE HAD PLANNED...
!?
HOW ABOUT YOU CAPTURE A FIGHT BETWEEN KAGEYASU AND I?


BESIDES, YOU GUYS AT THE TOP AREN'T AFTER
DATA PERTAINING TO PETTY FIGHTING TRICKS, ARE YOU?
BUT ONLY A "MATCH" AT BEST.
...FINE
WHILE WE FIGHT, YOU WILL SHOOT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SOUNDS EVERY 30 SECONDS WHILE BLINDFOLDED.
YOU SPECIALIZE IN BLIND SHOOTING, RIGHT?
WE EVEN HAVE "TENCOIN" RAIDER WITH US
MOREOVER,

WHAT A CRAZY WOMAN.
...
!?
!!
I'LL PASS
IT LEAVES A BAD AFTERTASTE TO SHOOT A WOMAN TO DEATH
OH? YOU THINK YOU'LL HIT US?
NO MATTER HOW FAST YOU ARE, THERE'S NO WAY AN ARTISTIC SHOOTER WILL HIT US
EITHER WAY, IT'S JUST A SIMPLE "SPICE" TO ADD TO THE MATCH.
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT
FINE. BUT DON'T COMPLAIN TO ME AFTERWARDS
IGH!?

SHE'S... RATHER KEEN ON FIGHTING ME...
DOES SHE HAVE A GRUDGE OR SOMETHING?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT,
SHALL WE GET STARTED?
BUT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, I'LL TAKE YOU ON
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS SO EARLY. BUT...
I CAN'T COMPLAIN WHEN THEY THEMSELVES WANT TO COMPETE...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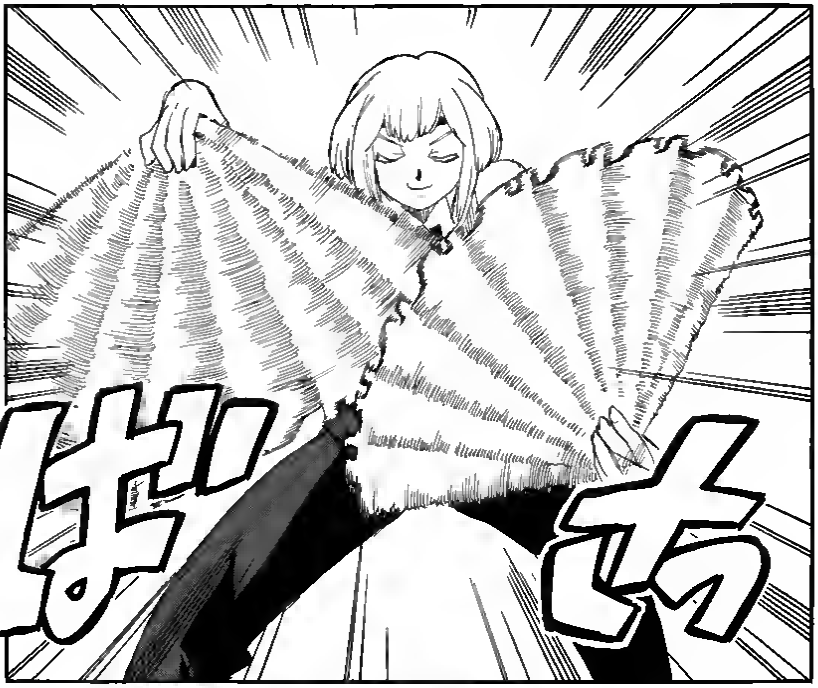
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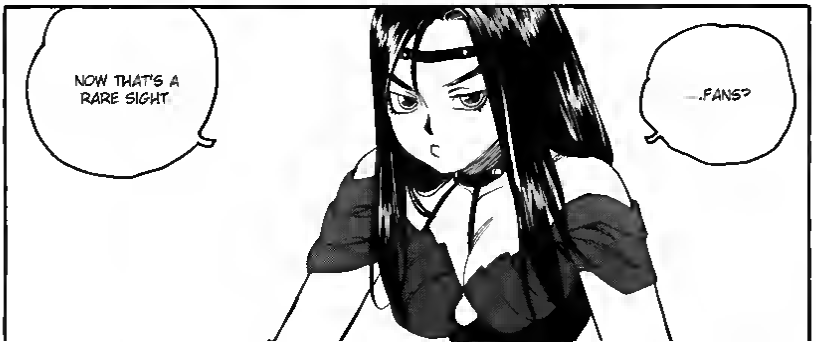
NOW THAT'S A RARE SIGHT
...FANS?

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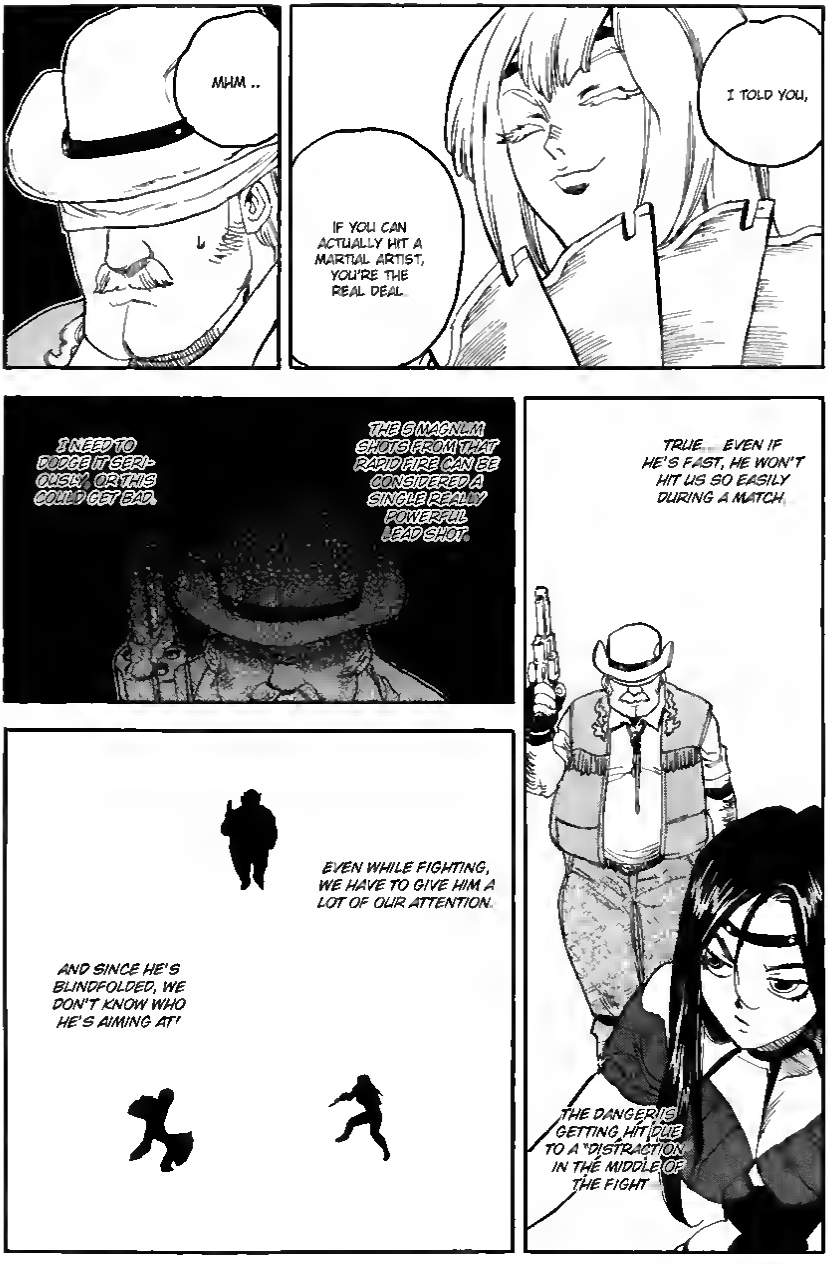
パパパ
PERFORM THE FIVE-SHOT TRICK FROM EARLIER EVERY 30 SECONDS
AH, RAIDER-SAN, RATHER THAN ONE SHOT,
YES
PLEASE GIVE ME A SIGNAL EVERY 30 SECONDS
GOOD. OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE NO MEANING IN HAVING YOU SHOOT
THIS SHOOTS 0.500 MAGNUMS, YOU KNOW
WITH FIVE BULLETS, IT'LL BE LIKE A LEAD SHOT.
SERIOUSLY!?


MHM ..
I TOLD YOU,
IF YOU CAN ACTUALLY HIT A MARTIAL ARTIST, YOU'RE THE REAL DEAL.
I NEED TO DODGE IT SERIOUSLY, OR THIS COULD GET BAD.
THE 9 MAGNUM SHOTS FROM THAT RAPID FIRE CAN BE CONSIDERED A SINGLE REALLY POWERFUL LEAD SHOT.
TRUE... EVEN IF HE'S FAST, HE WON'T HIT US SO EASILY DURING A MATCH.
EVEN WHILE FIGHTING, WE HAVE TO GIVE HIM A LOT OF OUR ATTENTION.
AND SINCE HE'S BLINDFOLDED, WE DON'T KNOW WHO HE'S AIMING AT!
THE DANGER IS GETTING HIT DUE TO A "DISTRACTION" IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT.

BEGIN!!

HEE--- SHORT METAL TRUNCHEONS, HUH?
QUITE A RARE SIGHT
CAN YOU REALLY BLOCK MY FANS
WITH THOSE SHORT STICKS?
TL-N: MAYBE A PUN, "FUN TO DRIVE"?
FAN TO DRIVE!!

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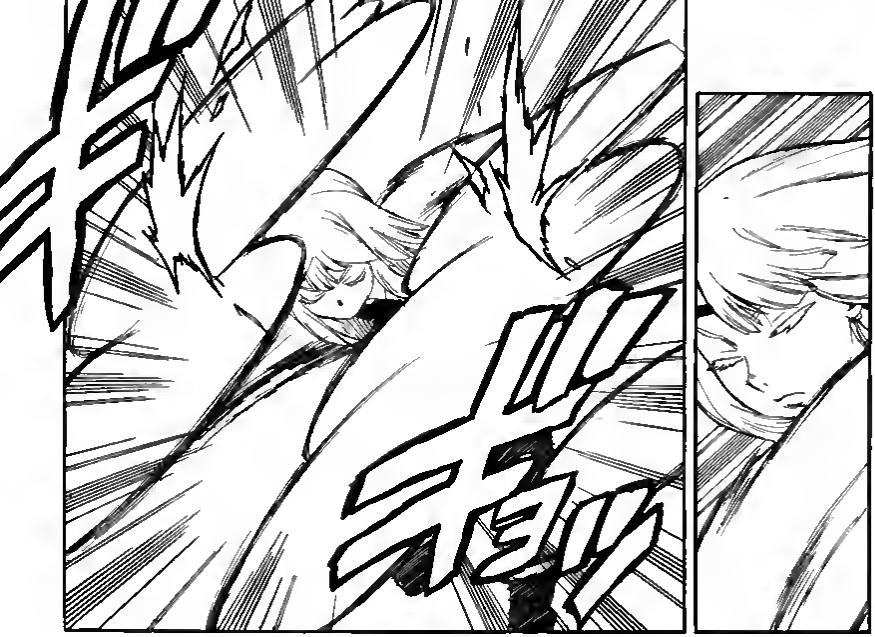
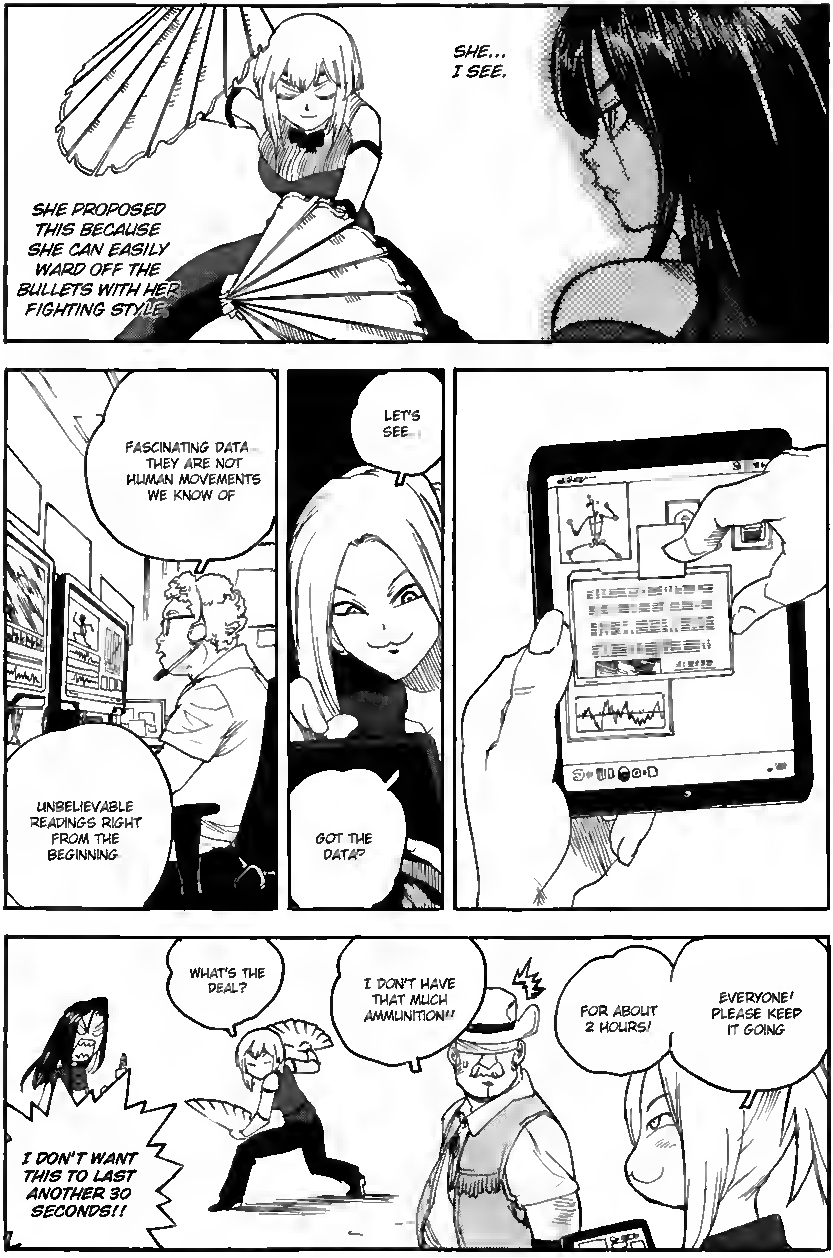
3 SECONDS LEFT
GEEZ, DON'T BLAME ME AFTER THE FACT.
!!


THAT SOUND!
NO WAY... SHE REPELLED THEM!?
THE MAGNUM BULLETS!?

I JUST ALTERED THE PATH OF THE BULLETS A TAD WITH MY FANS.
"REPELLED" IS TAKING IT TOO FAR.
THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF 0.500 MAGNUMS IS REALLY TERRIFIC.
EVEN SO, MY HANDS HURT QUITE A LOT.


SHE PROPOSED THIS BECAUSE SHE CAN EASILY WARD OFF THE BULLETS WITH HER FIGHTING STYLE
SHE... I SEE.
FASCINATING DATA... THEY ARE NOT HUMAN MOVEMENTS WE KNOW OF
UNBELIEVABLE READINGS RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING
LET'S SEE...
GOT THE DATA?
I DON'T WANT THIS TO LAST ANOTHER 30 SECONDS!!
WHAT'S THE DEAL?
I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH AMMUNITION!!
FOR ABOUT 2 HOURS!
EVERYONE! PLEASE KEEP IT GOING

IT'S DIFFICULT WITH THOSE WIDE FANS
WHILE HER MOVEMENTS AREN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL IT'S LIKE SHE'S SWINGING AROUND A SHIELD
UWAH!
DANGER-OUS!!
ANOTHER 30 SECONDS ARE UP!

LIGHTNING JITTE!!
I DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW IT OFF HERE
BUT IT'S STILL BETTER THAN GETTING HIT BY A MAGNUM BULLET!
NOW ONLY YOU WILL BE SHOT AT.
HOW'S THIS? CAN'T HEAR MY FOOTSTEPS, CAN YOU?
MOREOVER, YOUR FANS ARE MAKING MORE THAN ENOUGH NOISE

◆ VERONICA COULDN'T WAIT FOR HER TURN AND JOINED THE FIGHT!? KAGEYASU'S APPEARANCE FADED INTO THE BACKGROUND, BUT WILL SHE BE BACK!?

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Translator: PROzess
Cleaner: Sam
TSer: TheHammerBoy
QC/PR: Koro

AIKI S

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ISUTOSHI presents イストシ

進撃の巨人 Attack

VERONICA SUDDENLY JOINS THE FIGHT BETWEEN KAGEYASU AND THE FAN-USER!!
YOU'RE PLAYING AN INTERESTING GAME.
LET ME JOIN IN.
VERONICA-SAN!?
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE? WHAT ABOUT THE GUARDS!?
GUARDS?
OH, THEM.

...SO THEY WERE GUARDS, HUH? SORRY.
A FEW GUYS TRIED TO STOP ME FROM COMING INSIDE, BUT I TIDIED THEM UP.
YOU BEAT THEM UP, KNOWING PERFECTLY WELL THAT THEY WERE GUARDS...
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
WHO'S THAT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO. JUST KEEP SHOOTING.
I DON'T GET IT.
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
Y-YES, MA'AM...
IF NOT, I'LL TRIM AWAY THAT FAT STOMACH OF YOURS BY CUTTING IT OFF.
I TOLD YOU, KEEP SHOOTING.
ギラリ...
チャキ

SFX: *POINT*

YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE AGAINST SUCH A SMALL-FRY, YET YOU STILL CALL YOURSELF JOUKYUU'S DISCIPLE?
I'M DISAPPOINTED, KAGEYASU.
SMALL-FRY...!?
THAT'S... VERONICA!?
WHY IS SHE HERE!?
FINISH ME OFF IN 2 SECONDS!? SAY THAT AGAIN!
HEY!! ARE YOU TRYING TO STEAL MY SPOTLIGHT!?
CAN'T YOU SEE MY EXTRA SPECIAL CLOTHES!?
SCREW THE 30 SECOND INTERVAL; I'LL FINISH YOU OFF IN 2!
BRING IT ON, FAN-WOMAN.

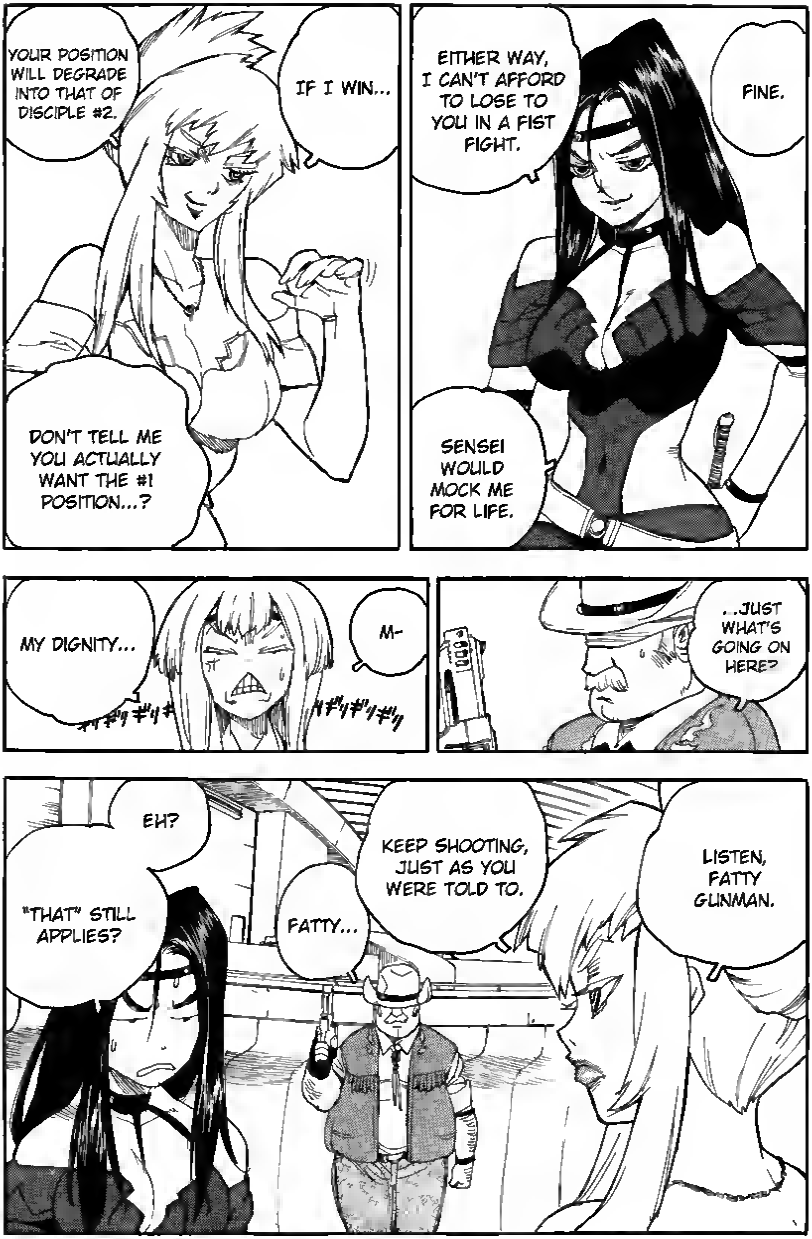
!!
GEEZ, SUCH A PAIN...
WHAT ...!?
TH-THAT LUNGE...

SHOW...
FUH... CLOSE CALL.
THE CURSED SWORD FROM EASTERN EUROPE ISN'T JUST FOR...
H-HOW DID SHE DO THAT SO EASILY!?
IMPOS-SIBLE ...!!
IGHI!? EVEN THOUGH THOSE FANS FENDED OFF MAGNUM BULLETS...!?
DON'T LUMP IT TOGETHER WITH A SWORD THAT IS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE USER'S SOUL.
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL IT IS IN THE BEGINNING, ONCE A BULLET HAS BEEN SHOT, IT'S JUST A SCRAP OF METAL FLYING IN A STRAIGHT LINE.

KUH...!
GO TO YOUR ROOM AND PACK YOUR THINGS.
NOW YOU KNOW YOUR PLACE.
IS IT OVER..?
EH~~?
EH?
EH!?
OVER? YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME. THIS IS WHEN IT REALLY BEGINS.

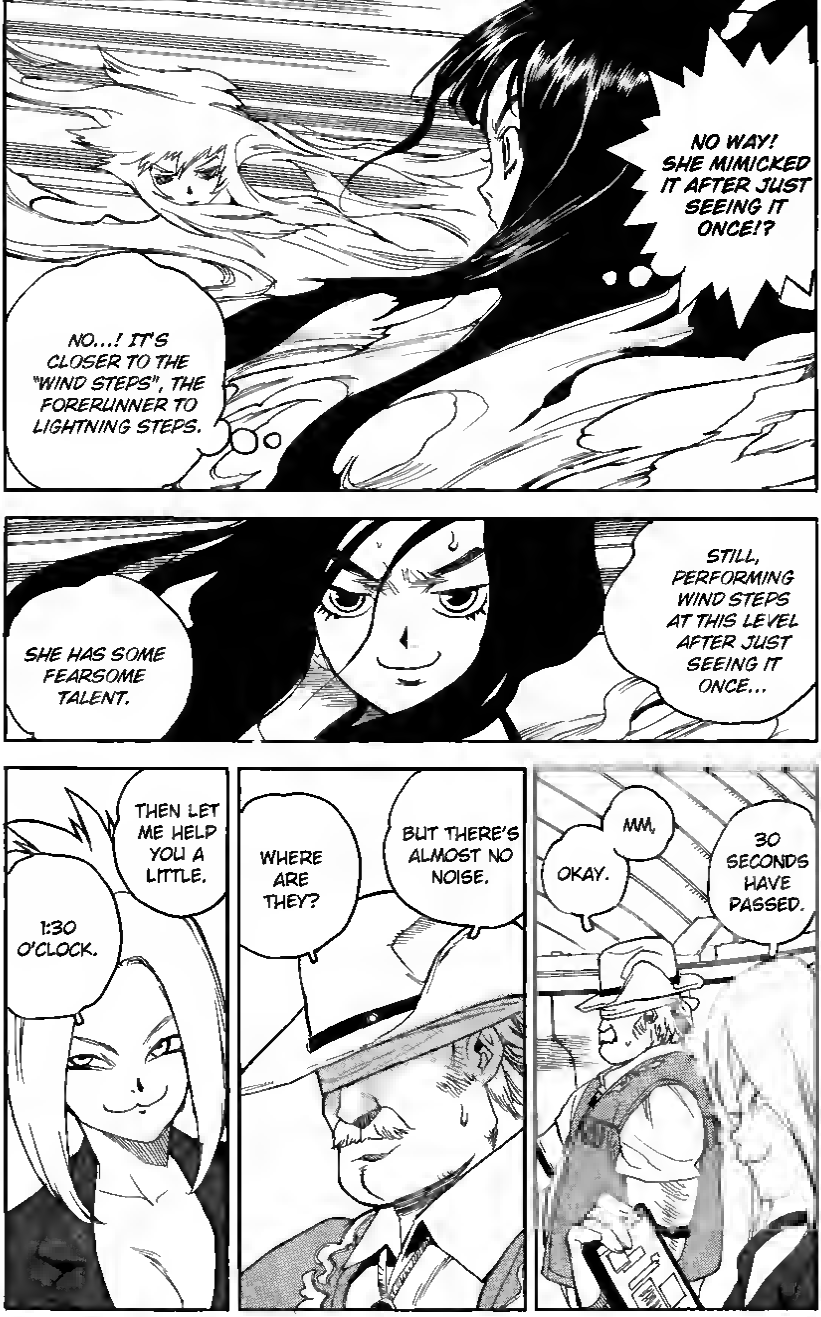
YOU AND I
STILL HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE, RIGHT?
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?
EH?
HOLD THIS.
SO LET'S SETTLE THIS AS JOUKYUU'S UNDERLINGS WITH OUR BARE HANDS.
DON'T WORRY. THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD LOSE AGAINST YOU WITH A SWORD,
WH-WHY WOULD WE SETTLE THINGS NOW!?
EH!?
THIS ISN'T FUNNY! I HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING!!

HEY NOW~ ARE YOU MOCKING ME?
EVEN IF IT'S YOU, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT I'LL WIN IN A FIST FIGHT!
THIS IS AN AIKIDO FIGHT.
BRING IT ON.
WHA...!?
I'M FAIRLY CONFIDENT IN MY BODY, EVEN WITHOUT A SWORD.
BESIDES, YOU HAD TROUBLE AGAINST THAT SMALL-FRY, SO YOUR SKILL IS QUESTIONABLE.
WELL NOW... I WONDER ABOUT THAT.


YOUR POSITION WILL DEGRADE INTO THAT OF DISCIPLE #2.
IF I WIN...
DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY WANT THE #1 POSITION...?
EITHER WAY, I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE TO YOU IN A FIST FIGHT.
FINE.
SENSEI WOULD MOCK ME FOR LIFE.
MY DIGNITY...
M-
...JUST WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
EH?
"THAT" STILL APPLIES?
FATTY...
KEEP SHOOTING, JUST AS YOU WERE TOLD TO.
LISTEN, FATTY GUNMAN.

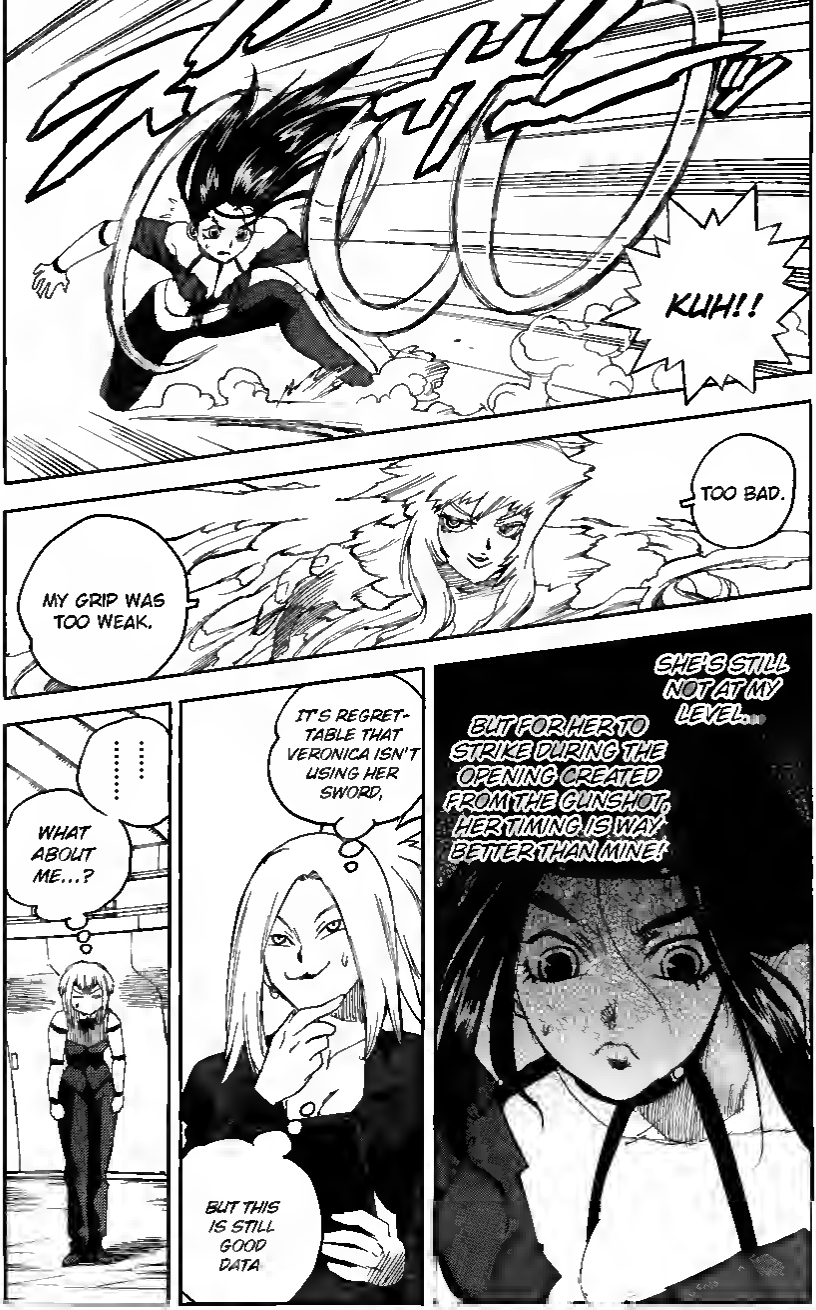
THIS IS FURTHER UNFORESEEN DATA!
TO THINK WE WOULD GET VERONICA TO PARTICIPATE THIS QUICKLY.
HERE I COME!

ARE THEY SOMETHING YOU CAN PERCEIVE WITHOUT YOUR SWORD?
THE "LIGHTNING STEPS" FROM SENSEI...
HMPH...
AN "ILLUSIONARY FOOT TECHNIQUE", HUH?
!?

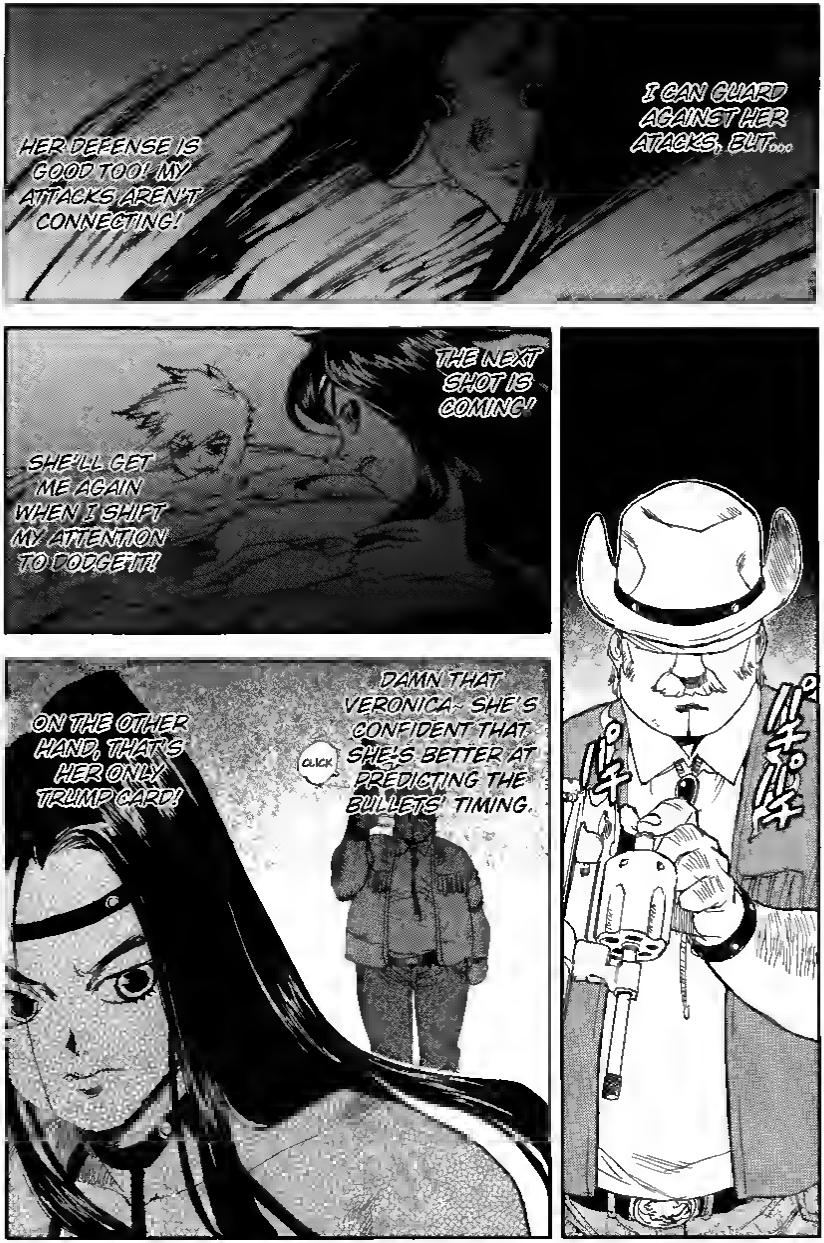

NO WAY! SHE MIMICKED IT AFTER JUST SEEING IT ONCE!?
NO...! IT'S CLOSER TO THE "WIND STEPS", THE FORERUNNER TO LIGHTNING STEPS.
STILL, PERFORMING WIND STEPS AT THIS LEVEL AFTER JUST SEEING IT ONCE...
SHE HAS SOME FEARSOME TALENT.
THEN LET ME HELP YOU A LITTLE.
1:30 O'CLOCK.
WHERE ARE THEY?
BUT THERE'S ALMOST NO NOISE.
MM.
OKAY.
30 SECONDS HAVE PASSED.

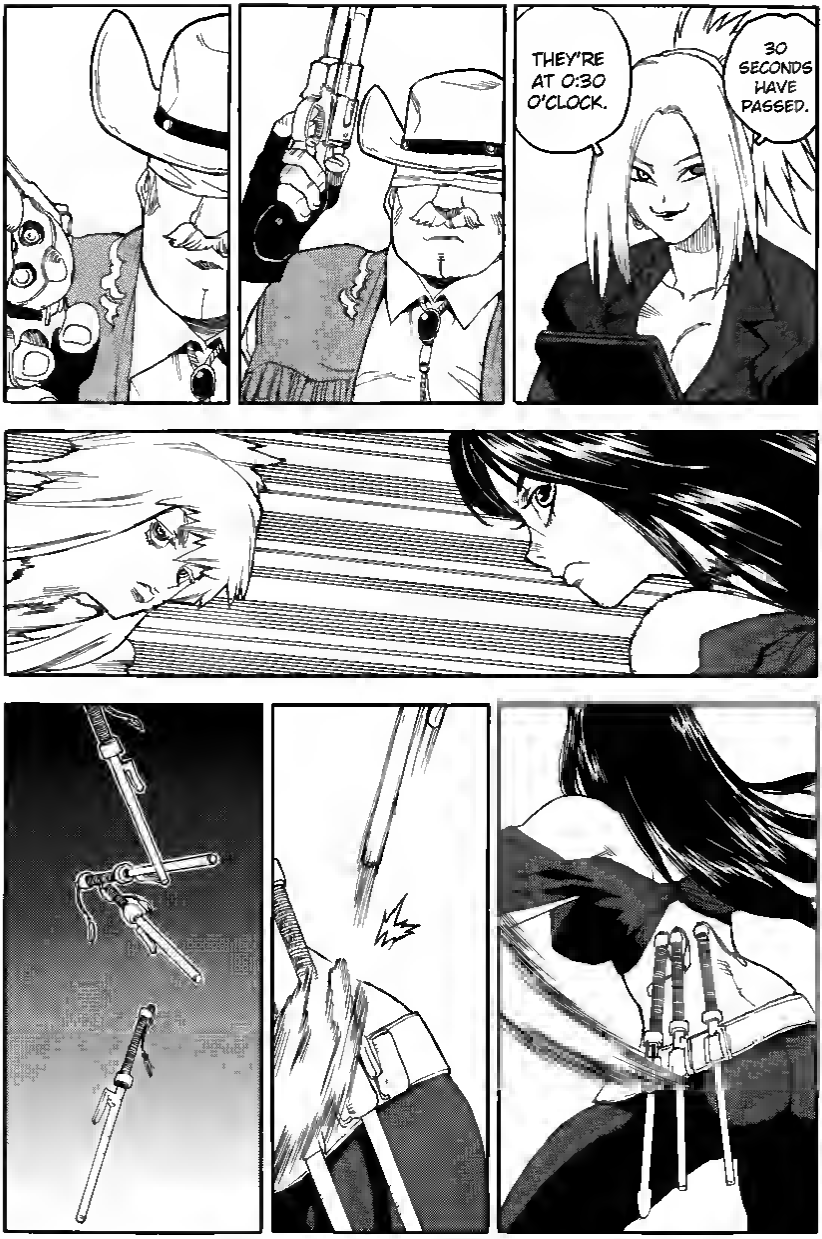
GOT IT!
WHOOPS ...!!
!!

!!?
CAUGHT YA!
ガバッ


KUH!!
TOO BAD.
MY GRIP WAS TOO WEAK.
SHE'S STILL NOT AT MY LEVEL...
BUT FOR HER TO STRIKE DURING THE OPENING CREATED FROM THE GUNSHOT, HER TIMING IS WAY BETTER THAN MINE!
IT'S REGRETTABLE THAT VERONICA ISN'T USING HER SWORD,
BUT THIS IS STILL GOOD DATA
.....
WHAT ABOUT ME...?

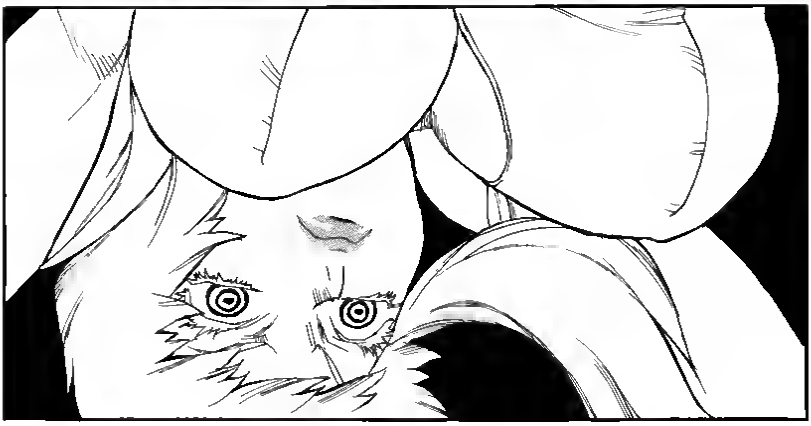
YOUR SMUG FACE PISSES ME OFF!
DON'T BE STUPID!
WHAT'S UP?
I DON'T MIND IF YOU WANT TO USE YOUR JITTE.


I CAN GUARD AGAINST HER ATTACKS, BUT...
HER DEFENSE IS GOOD TOO! MY ATTACKS AREN'T CONNECTING!
THE NEXT SHOT IS COMING!
SHE'LL GET ME AGAIN WHEN I SHIFT MY ATTENTION TO DODGE IT!
DAMN THAT VERONICA~ SHE'S CONFIDENT THAT SHE'S BETTER AT PREDICTING THE BULLETS' TIMING.
CLICK
ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT'S HER ONLY TRUMP CARD!
バキ
バキ

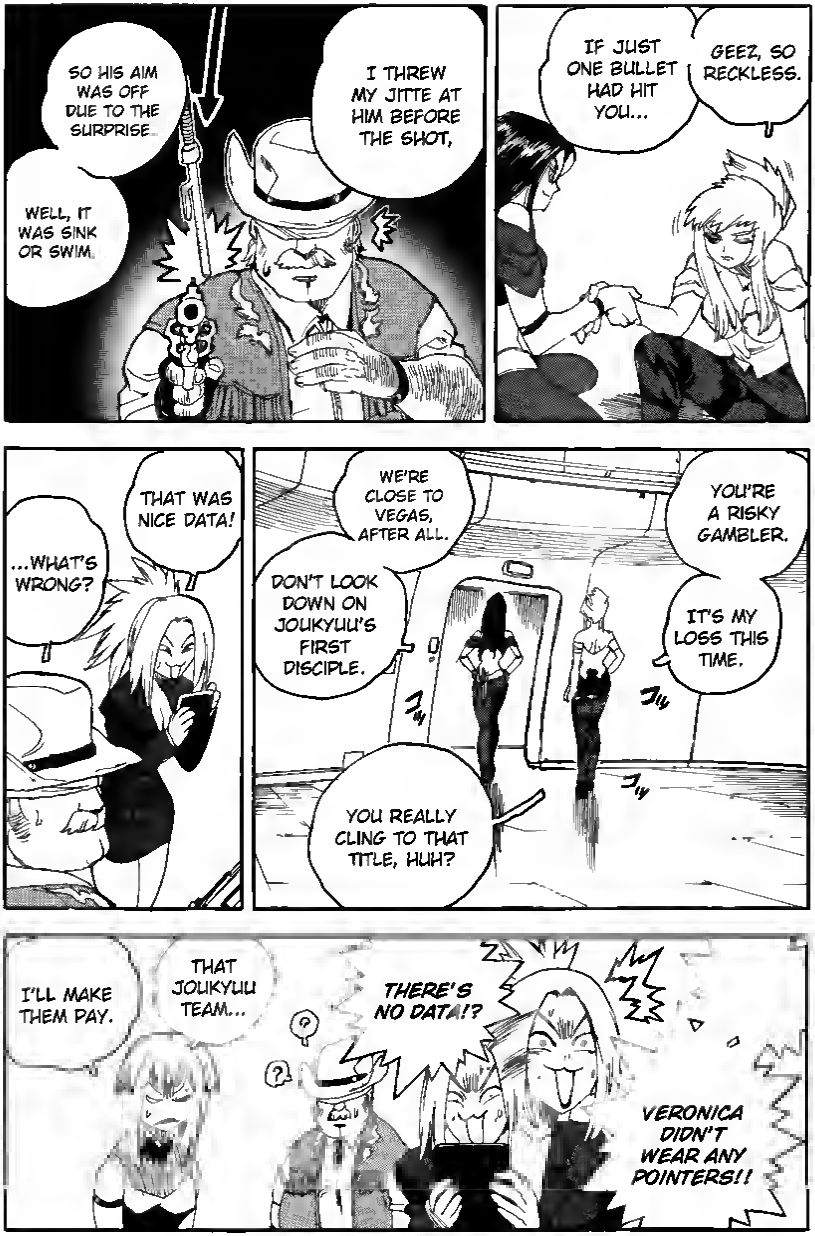

THEY'RE AT 0:30 O'CLOCK.
30 SECONDS HAVE PASSED.

!!?
WHY IS SHE STOPPING WITH HER BACK TO THE BULLETS!?
NO WAY!

WHAT!?



GUH!!
SO RECK-LESS...
I PURPOSELY STOPPED IN FRONT OF THE GUNMAN
TO PREVENT YOU FROM WITNESSING THE GUNSHOT.
YOU'RE LUCKY THAT YOU DIDN'T GET HIT.
YOU WERE WAITING FOR THAT VERY MOMENT,
SO YOU LOST YOUR CHANCE FOR AN ATTACK.


SO HIS AIM WAS OFF DUE TO THE SURPRISE.
I THREW MY JITTE AT HIM BEFORE THE SHOT.
WELL, IT WAS SINK OR SWIM.
IF JUST ONE BULLET HAD HIT YOU...
GEEZ, SO RECKLESS.
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN...!? AND WHAT'S THE REASON FOR ASSEMBLING AT THE MYSTERIOUS FACILITY...!?
THAT WAS NICE DATA!
...WHAT'S WRONG?
WE'RE CLOSE TO VEGAS, AFTER ALL.
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON JOUKYUU'S FIRST DISCIPLE.
YOU'RE A RISKY GAMBLER.
IT'S MY LOSS THIS TIME.
YOU REALLY CLING TO THAT TITLE, HUH?
I'LL MAKE THEM PAY.
THAT JOUKYUU TEAM...
THERE'S NO DATA!?
VERONICA DIDN'T WEAR ANY POINTERS!!

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TSer: TheHammerBoy
QC/PR: Koro

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超S AIKIS

ISUTOSI COMICS INFORMATION

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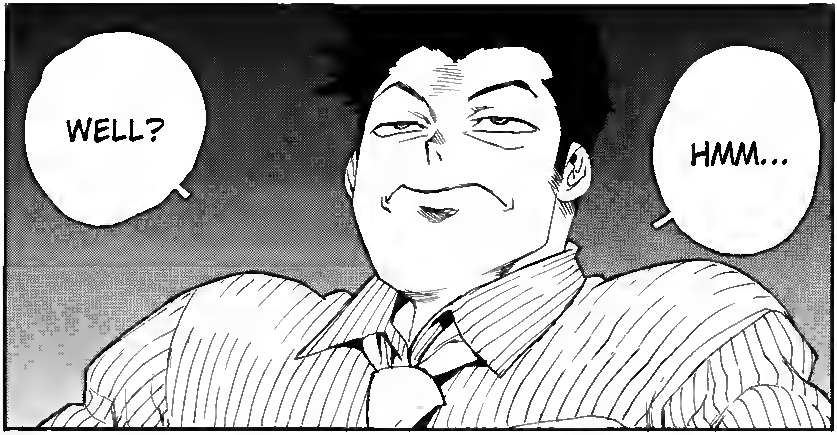
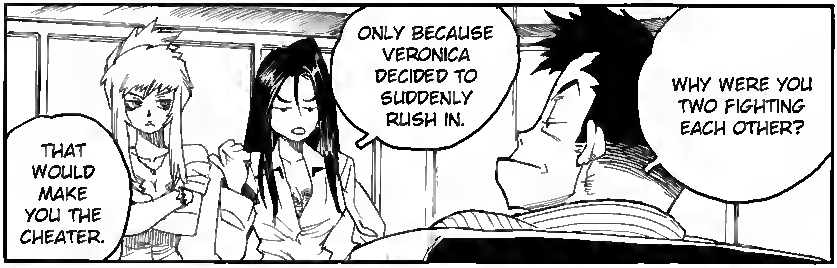
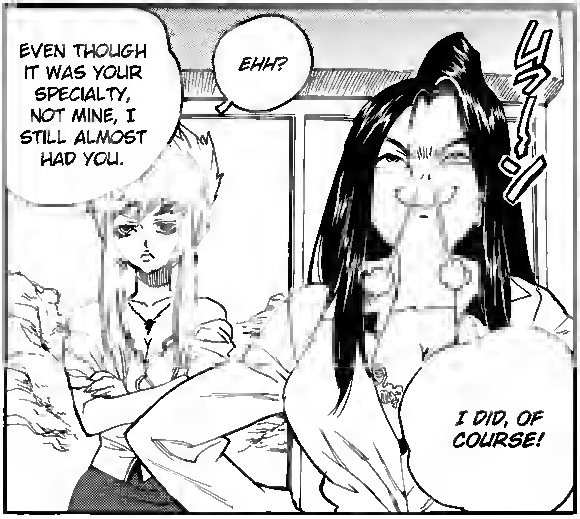
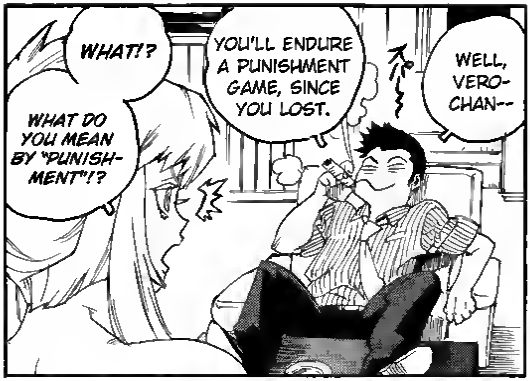
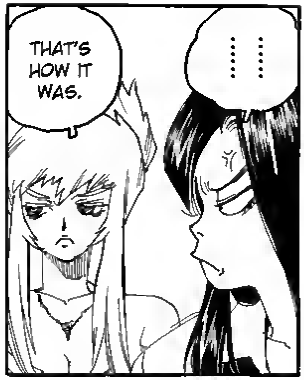

WELL?
HMM...

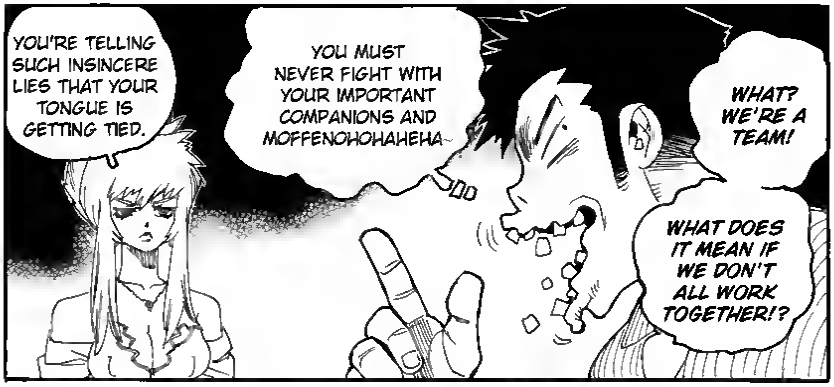

ONLY BECAUSE VERONICA DECIDED TO SUDDENLY RUSH IN.
WHY WERE YOU TWO FIGHTING EACH OTHER?
THAT WOULD MAKE YOU THE CHEATER.


EVEN THOUGH IT WAS YOUR SPECIALTY, NOT MINE, I STILL ALMOST HAD YOU.
EHH?
I DID, OF COURSE!

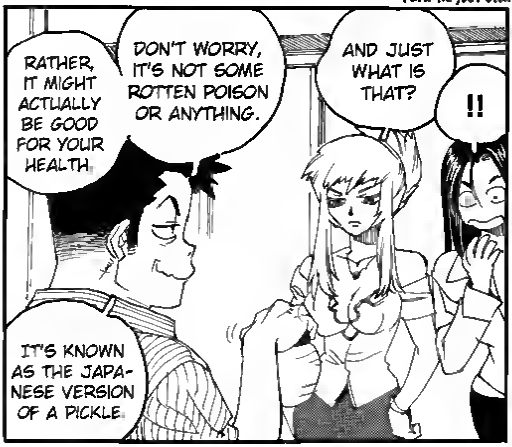
WELL? WHICH ONE OF YOU WON?
HMM...

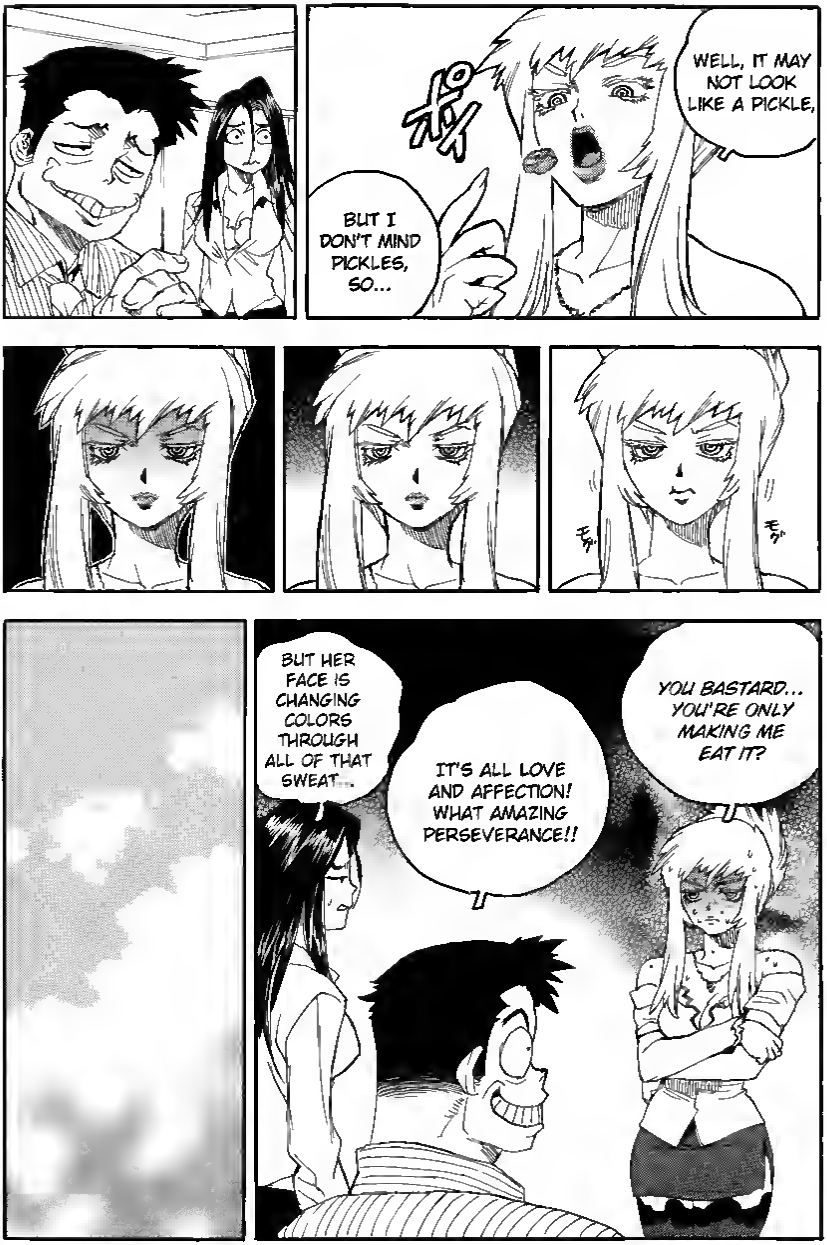


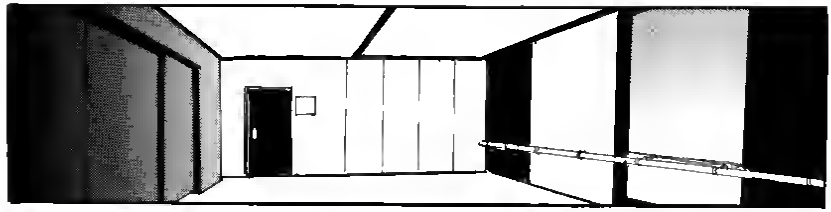


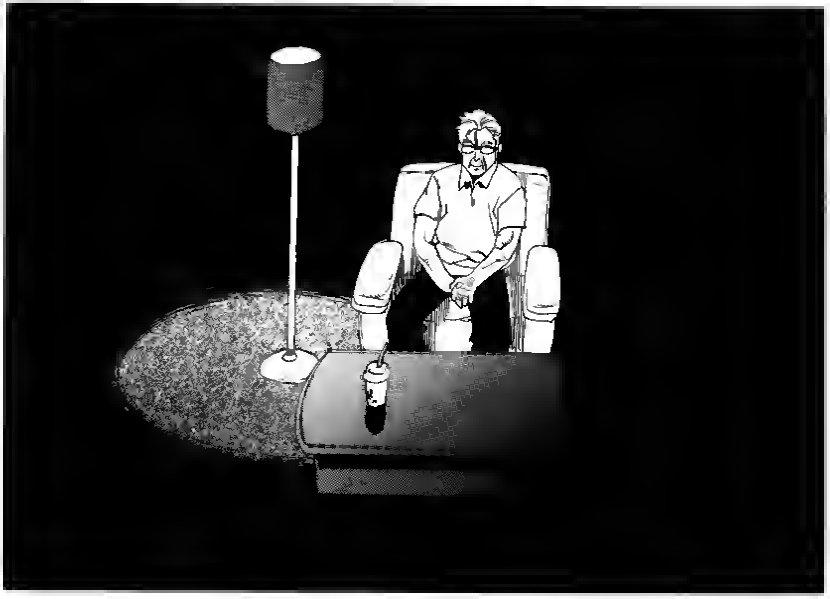

YOU'RE TELLING SUCH INSINCERE LIES THAT YOUR TONGUE IS GETTING TIED.
YOU MUST NEVER FIGHT WITH YOUR IMPORTANT COMPANIONS AND MOFFENOHOHAHEHA~
WHAT? WE'RE A TEAM!
WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF WE DON'T ALL WORK TOGETHER!?

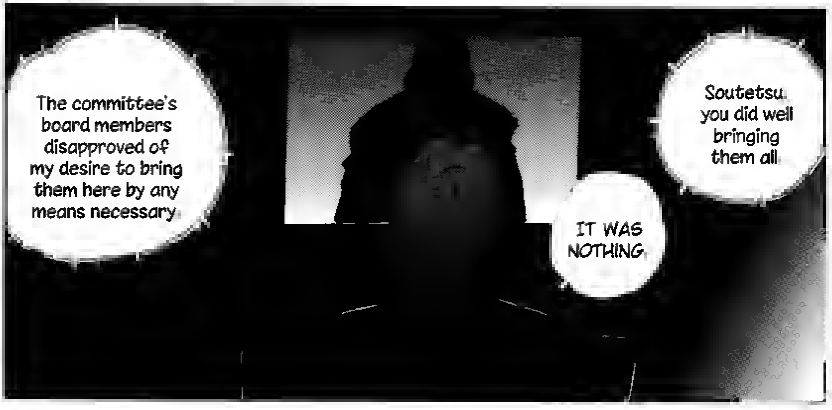
T.L.N. He just starts spouting gibberish.


RATHER, IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT SOME ROTTEN POISON OR ANYTHING.
AND JUST WHAT IS THAT?
!!
IT'S KNOWN AS THE JAPANESE VERSION OF A PICKLE.

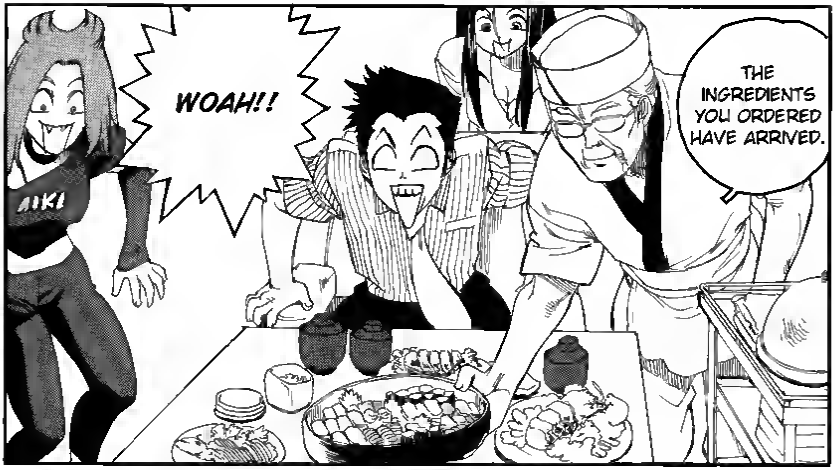

WELL, IT MAY NOT LOOK LIKE A PICKLE,
BUT I DON'T MIND PICKLES, SO...
BUT HER FACE IS CHANGING COLORS THROUGH ALL OF THAT SWEAT...
IT'S ALL LOVE AND AFFECTION! WHAT AMAZING PERSEVERANCE!!
YOU BASTARD... YOU'RE ONLY MAKING ME EAT IT?

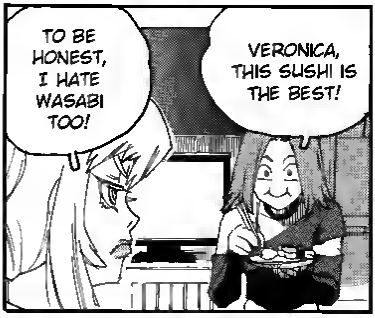


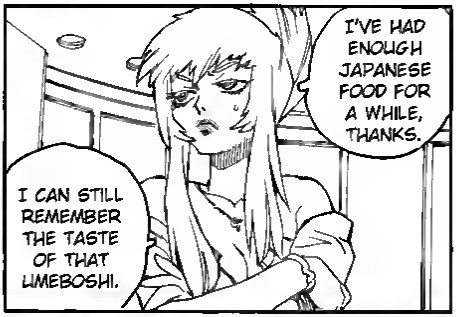



The committee's board members disapproved of my desire to bring them here by any means necessary.
IT WAS NOTHING.
Soutetsu, you did well bringing them all.

You have my thanks, Soutetsu.
It's just as you say.
How did you persuade that problematic one?
THE COMMITTEE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT IT, RIGHT?
BUT NOW THAT I'VE WON THEM OVER, AND THEY'RE HERE OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL,
IN HIS CASE, IT WAS WITH TASTE.
INSTEAD OF PERSUADING HIM WITH WORDS...

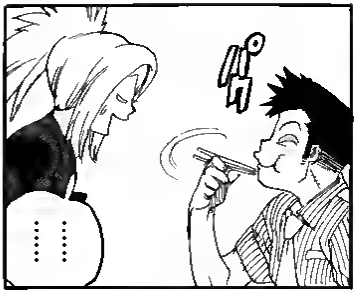


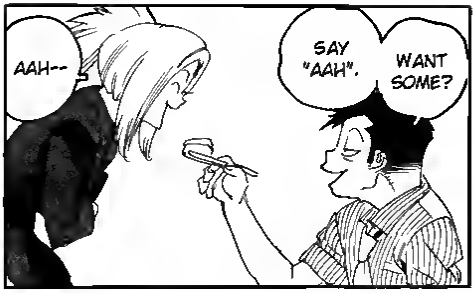


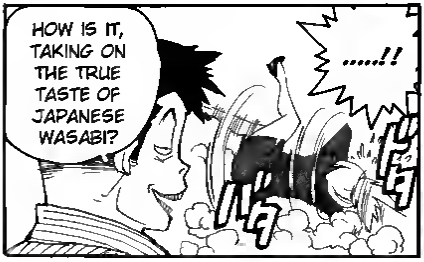


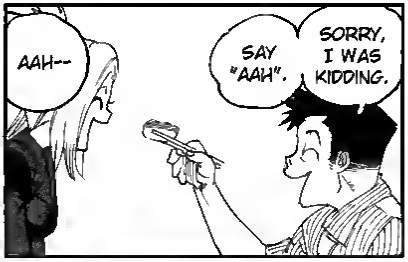
T.N- Dried plum

I WAS COMING TO ASK EVERYONE TO GO TO THE INFORMATION DESK...
THOUGH THAT SUSHI DOES LOOK DELICIOUS...
EXCUSE ME FOR INTRUDING ON YOUR MEAL.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EH?

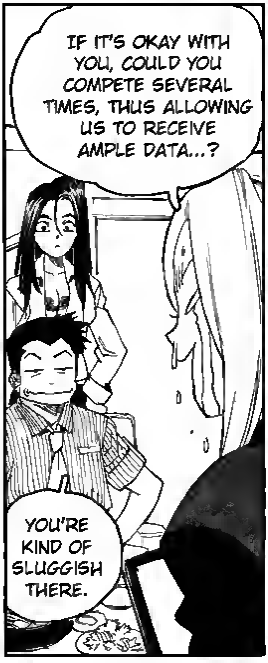


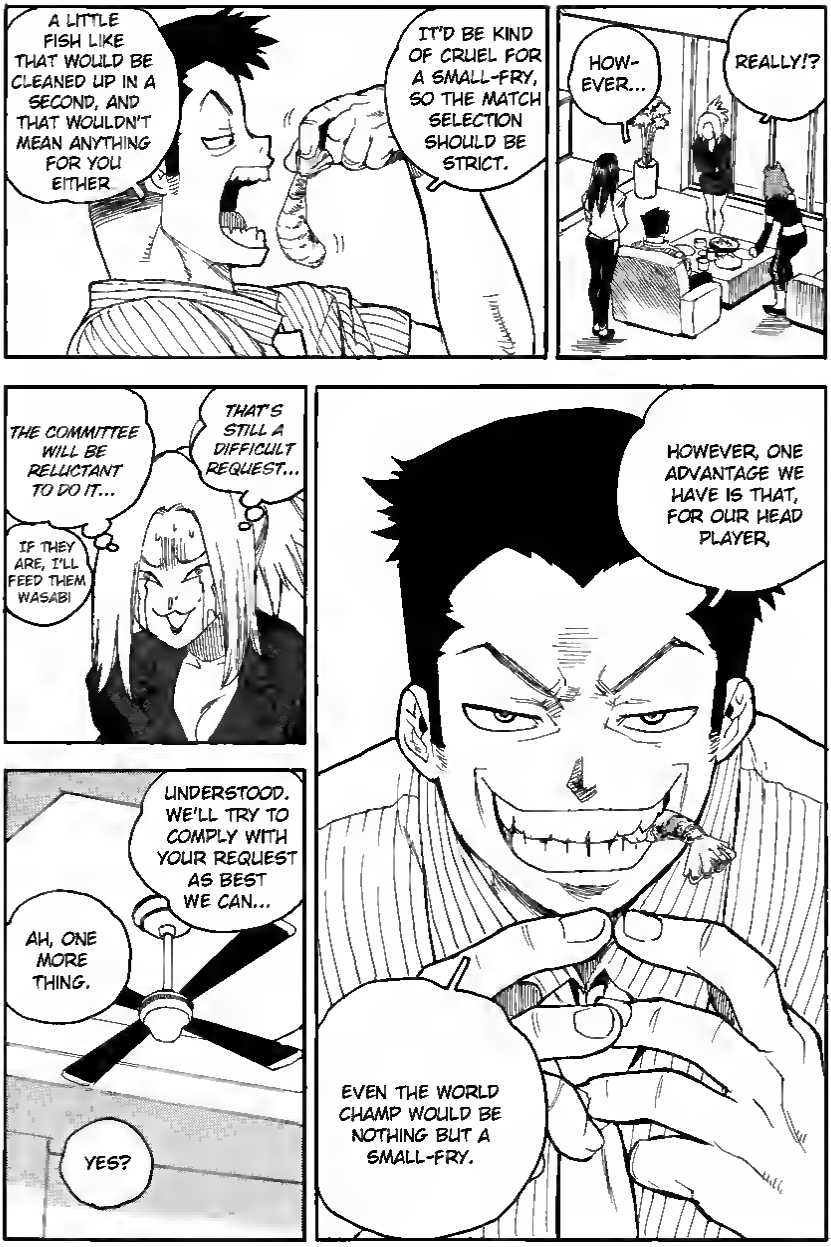


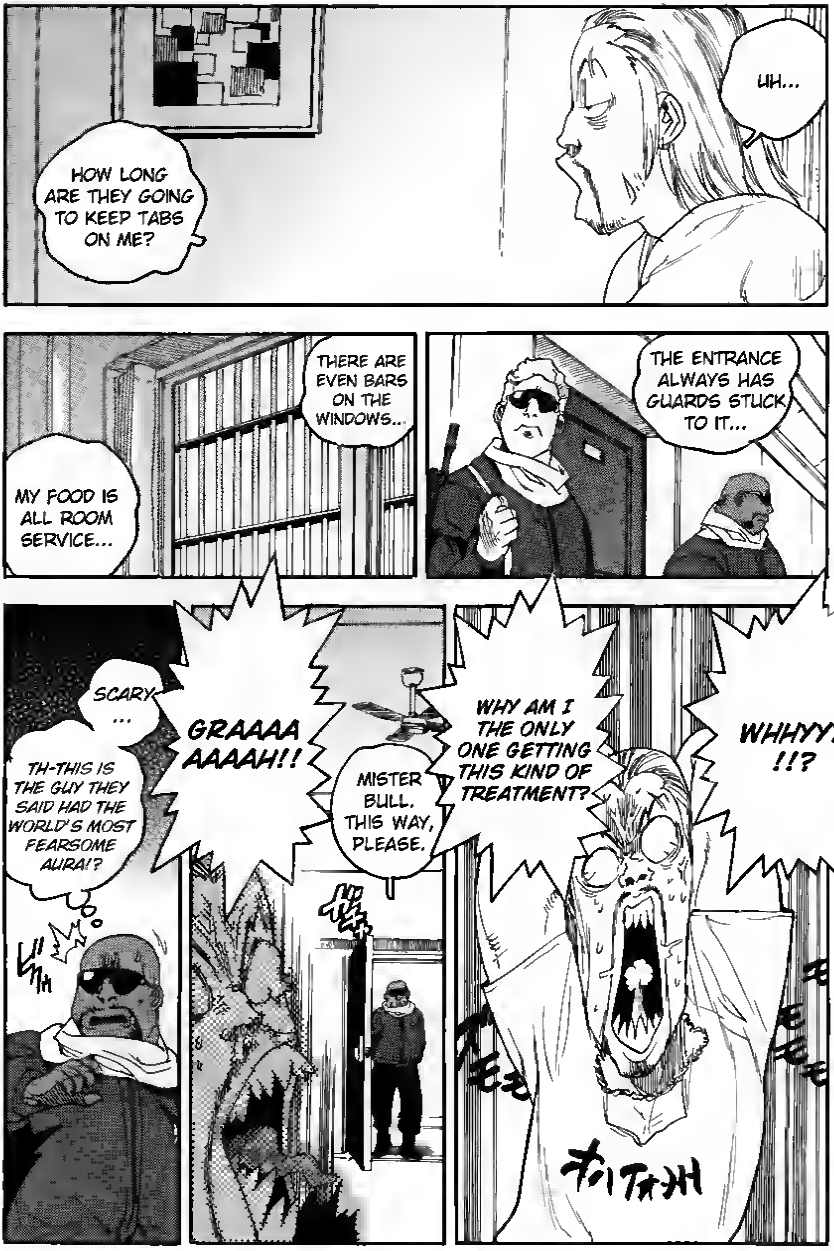




TLN: She can barely talk through all the tears




A LITTLE FISH LIKE THAT WOULD BE CLEANED UP IN A SECOND, AND THAT WOULDN'T MEAN ANYTHING FOR YOU EITHER.
IT'D BE KIND OF CRUEL FOR A SMALL-FRY, SO THE MATCH SELECTION SHOULD BE STRICT.
HOW-EVER...
REALLY!?
THE COMMITTEE WILL BE RELUCTANT TO DO IT...
THAT'S STILL A DIFFICULT REQUEST...
IF THEY ARE, I'LL FEED THEM WASABI
HOWEVER, ONE ADVANTAGE WE HAVE IS THAT, FOR OUR HEAD PLAYER,
UNDERSTOOD. WE'LL TRY TO COMPLY WITH YOUR REQUEST AS BEST WE CAN...
AH, ONE MORE THING.
YES?
EVEN THE WORLD CHAMP WOULD BE NOTHING BUT A SMALL-FRY.


UH...
HOW LONG ARE THEY GOING TO KEEP TABS ON ME?
THERE ARE EVEN BARS ON THE WINDOWS...
MY FOOD IS ALL ROOM SERVICE...
THE ENTRANCE ALWAYS HAS GUARDS STUCK TO IT...
SCARY...
TH-THIS IS THE GUY THEY SAID HAD THE WORLD'S MOST FEARSOME AURA!?
GRAAAAAAAH!!
MISTER BULL. THIS WAY, PLEASE.
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE GETTING THIS KIND OF TREATMENT?
WHHYYY !!?

IDIOT! DON'T DO ANYTHING TO PROVOKE HIM! WE'LL BE KILLED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
TH... THIS IS SCARY. THERE'S A MONSTER GROWLING BEHIND US...
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HOW DID I GROW ACCUSTOMED TO BEING USED BY JOUKYUU...?
THIS TIME... THIS TIME AROUND I'LL KLONK HIM...
フッ
PLEASE.
TH-THIS WAY, PLEASE, MISTER BULL.
ガヤ

CUT THAT OUT!!!
BULL THE INFINITE
フッ
YOU'RE A MAN NOW. THIS IS A TEST OF FATE. SO SHINE BRIGHTLY. ☆
WHAT THE HECK KIND OF GRUDGE DO YOU HAVE AGAINST ME--!!?
CALLING ME THAT, CALLING ME THAT-----
WHAT'S WITH THE STAR!!?

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MOT
I'M NOT THE ONE YOU SHOULD BE FLARING UP AT.
LOOK OVER THERE.
HUH!?
AS EXPECTED, EVEN YOU KNOW THE PATTERN HERE.
THERE'S A LINE OF PEOPLE WANTING TO CHALLENGE THE LEGEND.
...GEEZ. I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE!
SO YOU'RE SAYING WE'RE GOING TO COMPETE WITH THEM?
THEY'RE ALL JUDO, WRESTLING, EVEN MUAY THAI CHAMPIONS.
GOOD GRIEF... IT'S MORE LIKE THEY'RE FROM SPORTS TEAMS OR SOMETHING.
MOT
SEVERAL CAME READY FOR MATCHES.
CALLING THEM ALL "CHAMPIONS"... STOP FUCKING AROUND. HOW MANY "WORLD BESTS" CAN THERE BE!!?

SO... WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING...?
SEE? THERE, THERE.
MASTER! IF IT'S NOT TOO PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME, I SHALL SUPPORT YOU.
THEY ARE NOT!
MISTER BULL, ARE THE PREPARATIONS TO YOUR LIKING?
OOOOH!
COME ON--!!
DO WHAAAT!?
DON'T THINK.
JUST SWING YOUR ARMS AND LEGS AROUND AIMLESSLY OR SOMETHING.

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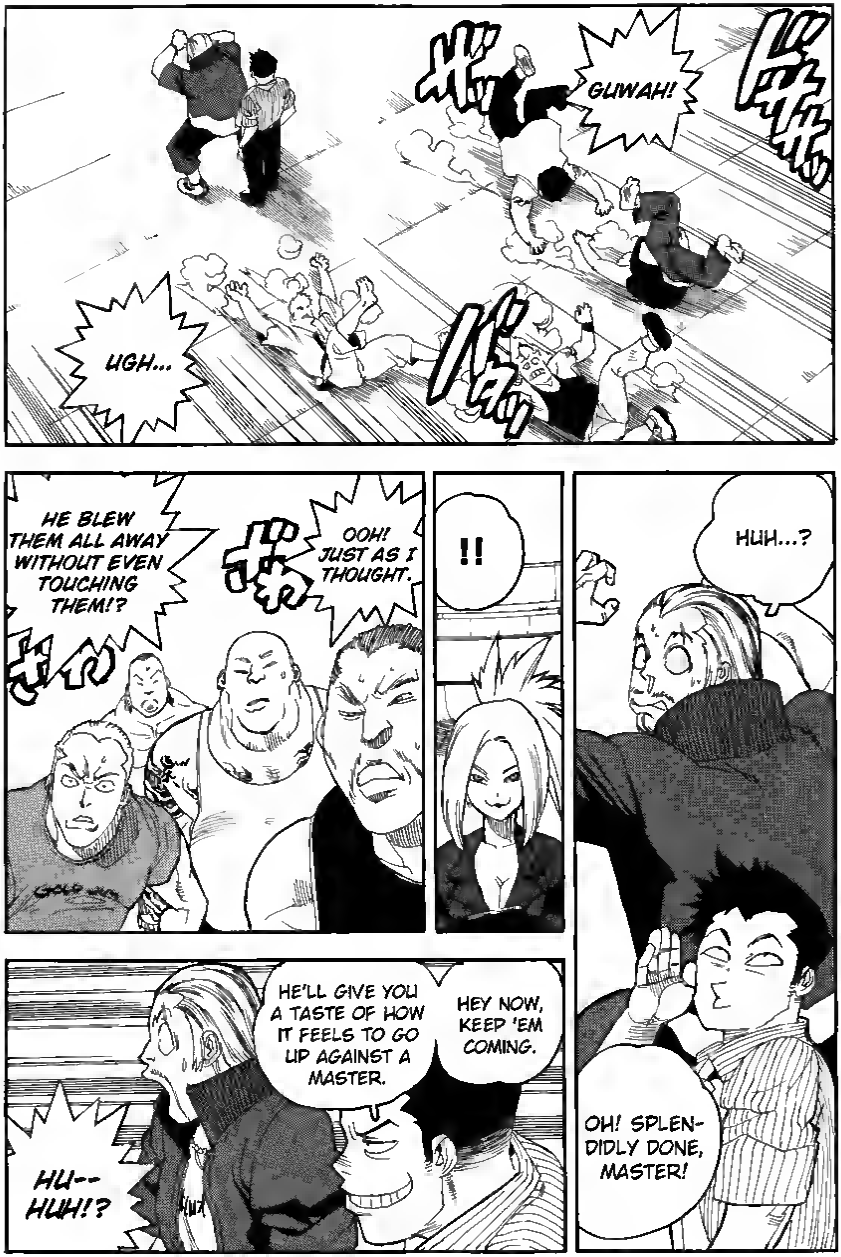
GUWAH!
UGH...
HE BLEW THEM ALL AWAY WITHOUT EVEN TOUCHING THEM!?
OOH! JUST AS I THOUGHT.
!!
HUH...?
HE'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF HOW IT FEELS TO GO UP AGAINST A MASTER.
HEY NOW, KEEP 'EM COMING.
HU-- HUH!?
OH! SPLENDIDLY DONE, MASTER!

HUH!!?
IF YOU SUSTAIN EVEN ONE BLOW, IT'LL CRUSH YOUR BONES.
OH MY. A MUAY THAI CHAMP.
I'LL TAKE YOU ON MYSELF!!
I WON'T FALTER!
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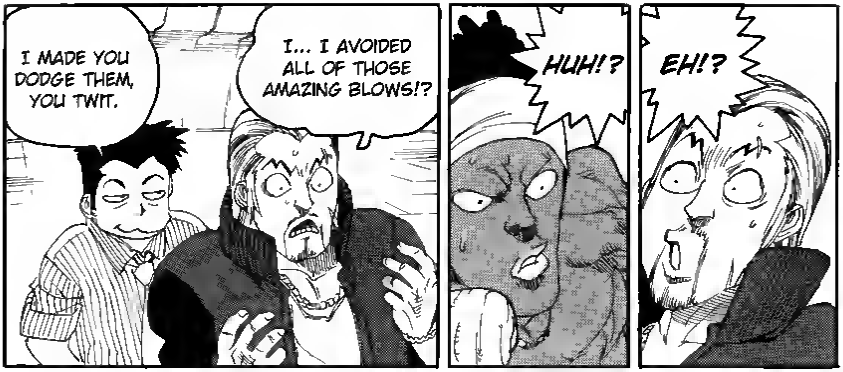
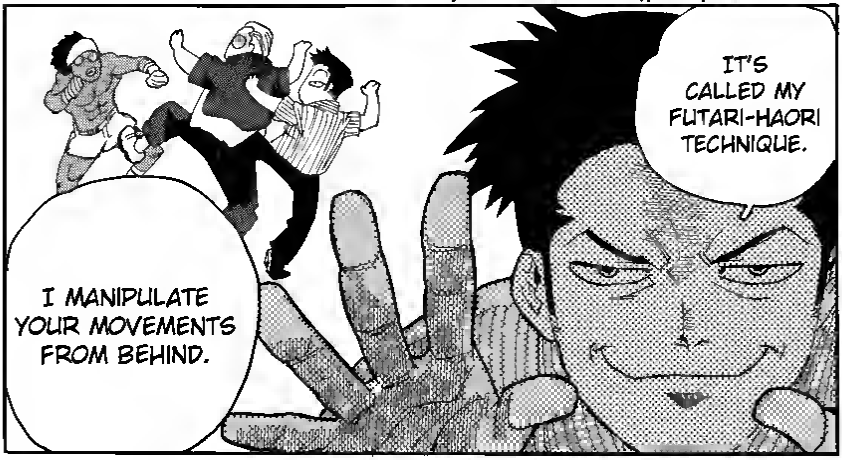
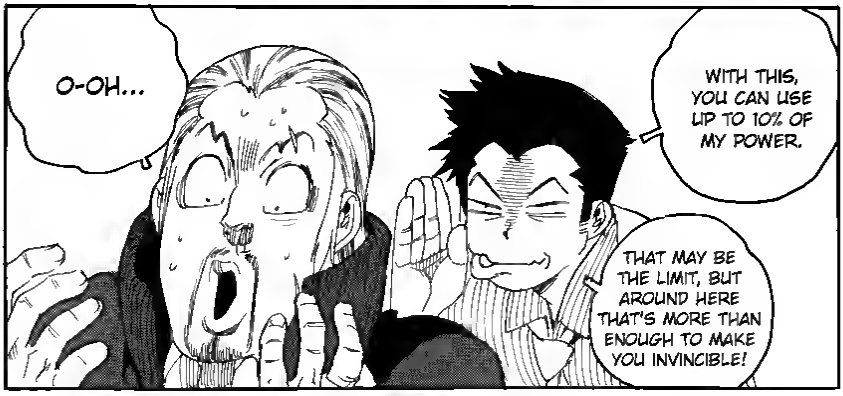


TLN: "Two-person Coat" (A Haori is a type of Japanese formal coat)

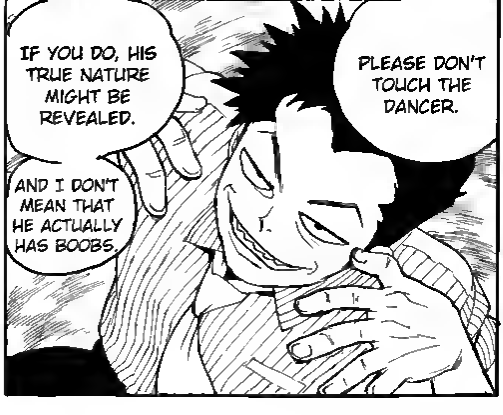


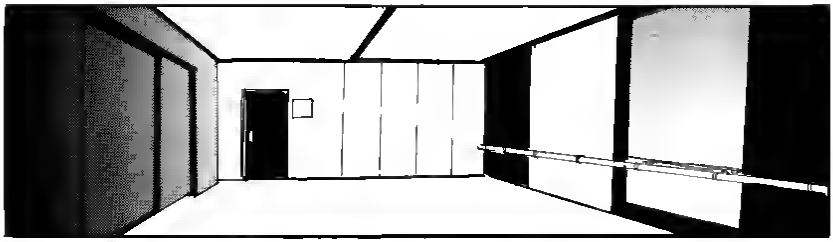

O-OH...
WITH THIS, YOU CAN USE UP TO 10% OF MY POWER.
THAT MAY BE THE LIMIT, BUT AROUND HERE THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU INVINCIBLE!

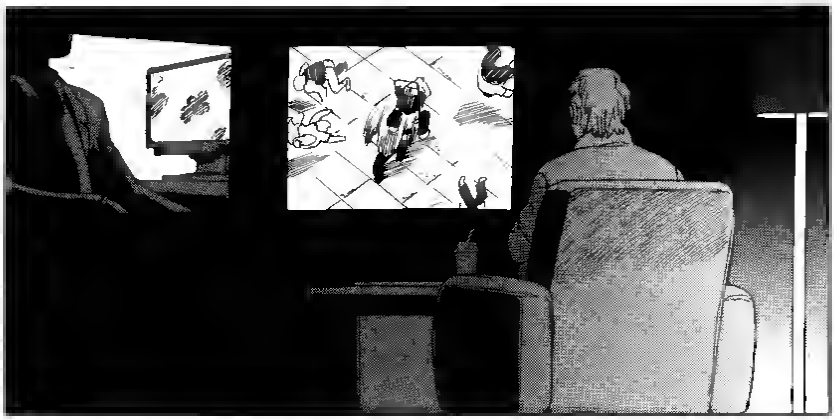
EH?
OH, OKAY.
BULL, JUST THROW OUT A PUNCH OR SOMETHING. THAT'LL WORK.
TCH.
I DIDN'T EXPECT MY MUAY THAI TO BE SO INEFFECTIVE.
ドパパパパパ
WHAT'S WITH THIS SUDDEN SUPER POWER-UP!!?
WOAH!?

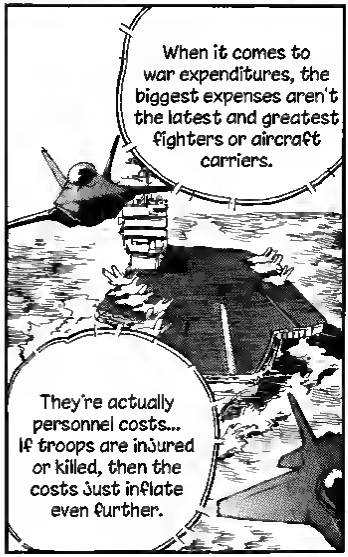
HE GRAPPLED ME!!
CRAP!
AND AFTER ALL OF THAT, THIS IS WHY THEY STILL CALL SPORTSMEN USELESS...
J-JOUKYUU, DO SOMETHING!!
ATTACK TOGETHER! TAKE THE FIGHT TO HIM WHILE HE'S STUCK!
NOW! EVERYONE, DOG-PILE HIM!

TLN: The original term in japanese usually infers a female dancer.





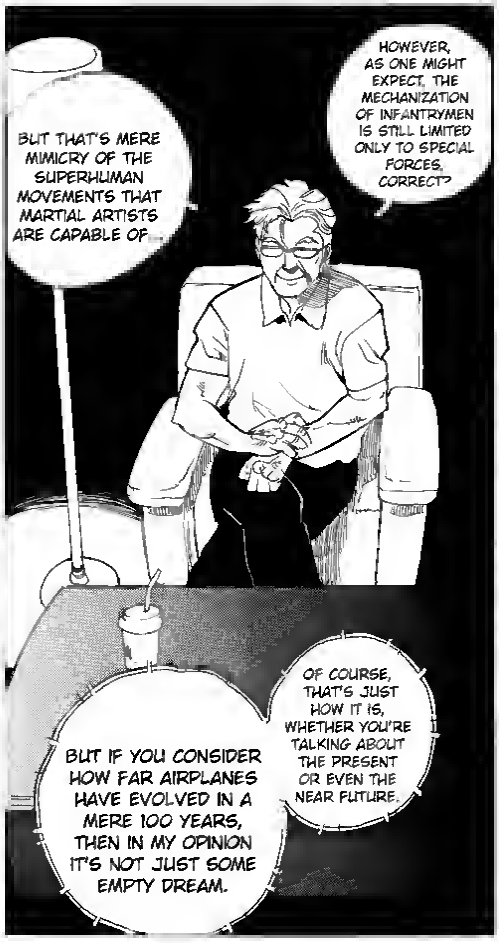


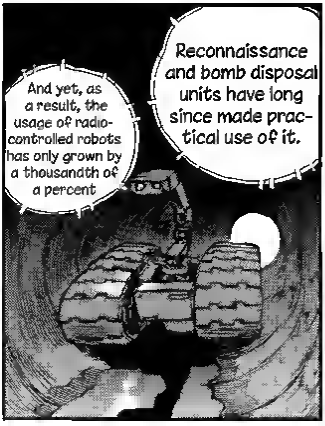

When it comes to war expenditures, the biggest expenses aren't the latest and greatest fighters or aircraft carriers.
They're actually personnel costs... If troops are injured or killed, then the costs just inflate even further.

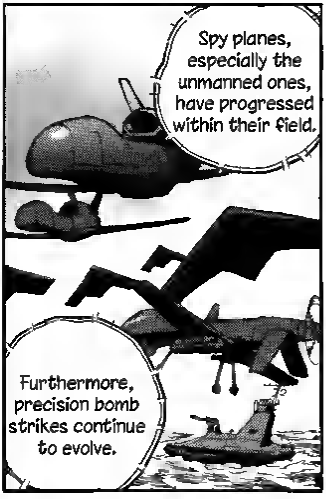
BUT, AS EXPECTED, HE'S DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE.
Hahaha, it seems that way, huh?

Amazing...
I almost can't believe that's a human technique.

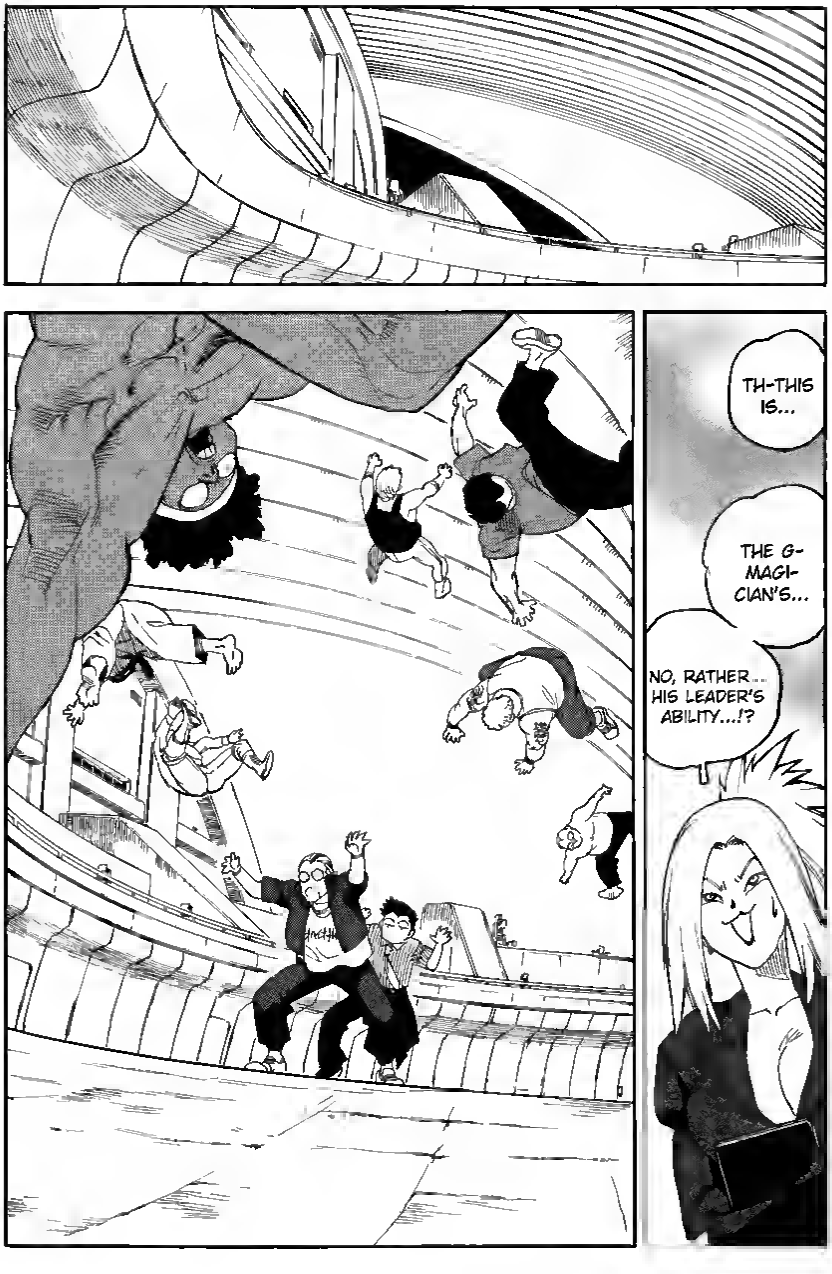
As for me... Even with America's economy declining, they are still maintaining their armaments, and full automation has not even been considered.
In reality, however, it is already too late. The process of becoming "unmanned" has begun.


HOWEVER, AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT, THE MECHANIZATION OF INFANTRYMEN IS STILL LIMITED ONLY TO SPECIAL FORCES, CORRECT?
BUT THAT'S MERE MIMICRY OF THE SUPERHUMAN MOVEMENTS THAT MARTIAL ARTISTS ARE CAPABLE OF
OF COURSE, THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS, WHETHER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PRESENT OR EVEN THE NEAR FUTURE.
BUT IF YOU CONSIDER HOW FAR AIRPLANES HAVE EVOLVED IN A MERE 100 YEARS, THEN IN MY OPINION IT'S NOT JUST SOME EMPTY DREAM.

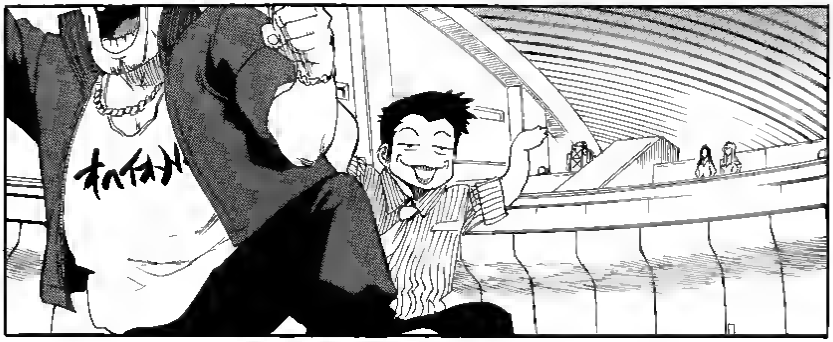

Reconnaissance and bomb disposal units have long since made practical use of it.
And yet, as a result, the usage of radio-controlled robots has only grown by a thousandth of a percent

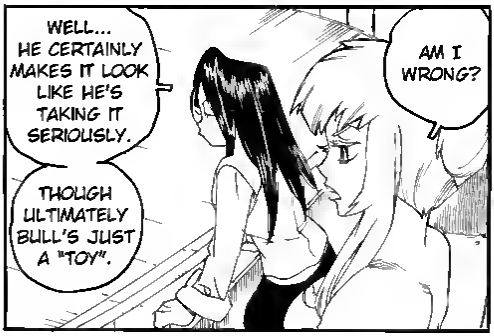

Spy planes, especially the unmanned ones, have progressed within their field.
Furthermore, precision bomb strikes continue to evolve.

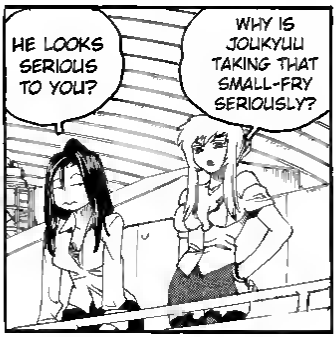
even if it might be useful for national defense. In fact, America is even working on psycho-kinetic research.
Anyway... that's not within my current scope,
THAT'D BE LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A MOVIE...
Hahaha, androids are scary, huh?
Unending terrorism... The arrogance of an emerging nation...
If America is weakened, someone else will have to step up to serve as the world's peace-keeper.
If you think about it, it may be possible in just a few decades from now.
AMERICANS, ON THE OTHER HAND... THEY LIKE "JUSTICE".
WHILE THE SUCCESSOR COULD CERTAINLY BE JAPAN,
THEY HAVE PROBLEMS OF THEIR OWN WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

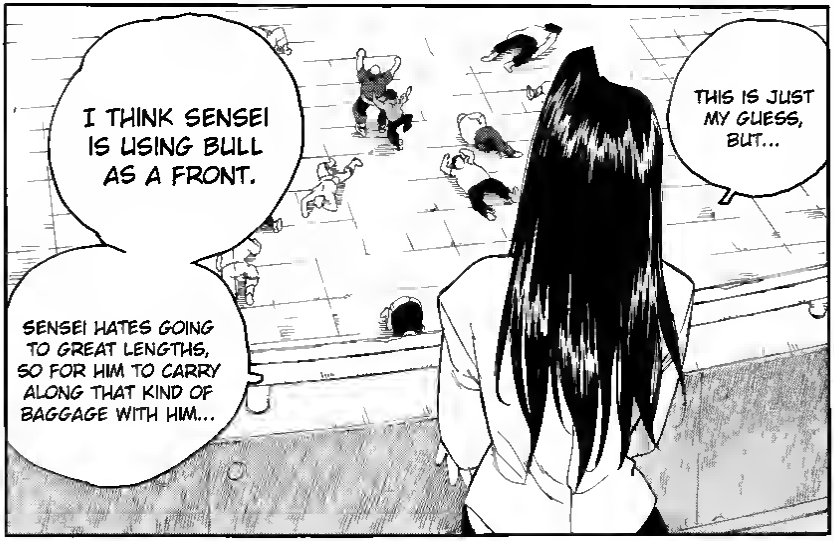

TH-THIS IS...
THE G-MAGI-CIAN'S...
NO, RATHER... HIS LEADER'S ABILITY...!?

MY TRAINING WAS WORTH IT!!
HAHAH! YES! LOOK AT THAT!!
BRAVO, MASTER.




WELL... HE CERTAINLY MAKES IT LOOK LIKE HE'S TAKING IT SERIOUSLY.
THOUGH ULTIMATELY BULL'S JUST A "TOY".
AM I WRONG?


HE LOOKS SERIOUS TO YOU?
WHY IS JOUKYUU TAKING THAT SMALL-FRY SERIOUSLY?


I THINK SENSEI IS USING BULL AS A FRONT.
SENSEI HATES GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS, SO FOR HIM TO CARRY ALONG THAT KIND OF BAGGAGE WITH HIM...
THIS IS JUST MY GUESS, BUT...

HUH?
WELL THEN, LET'S START THE REAL PERFOR-MANCE.
WOW, AS EXPECTED OF MISTER BULL.
AH, I SAID THAT.
NO, NO, WE DIDN'T SAY THAT.
ATHLETES ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION.
WE SAID SO EARLIER, RIGHT?
ガシ…
HERE ARE FIRST-CLASS MARTIAL ARTISTS.
NOW THAT YOU'VE WARMED UP,

THESE GUYS AGAIN...
GEEZ.
YAHOO~~~
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, PROFESSOR.